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'ARAFAT CRITICIZES U.S. POLICY IN MIDDLE EAST

NC280935 Doha QNA in Arabic 0911 GMT 28 Feb 79 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 28 February--The Kuwaiti newspaper AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM quotes PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat as saying that documents have been discovered at the Israeli Embassy in Tehran condemning the former Iranian regime for spying on the gulf states and uncovering the activities which the Israelis intended to carry out in the area.

At his meeting with Palestinian leaders here last night, 'Arafat said that the Iranian leaders have shown great sympathy and sincere response to the questions in the area.

'Arafat criticized the U.S. policy in the Middle East which, he stressed, aims at liquidating the Palestinian revolution and destroying Arab solidarity. He added that this policy will fail to achieve its objectives.

'Arafat affirmed that the Arab cause is passing through a critical phase which demands the Arabs close ranks.

ARAB LEAGUE SESSION TO BE HELD IN KUWAIT 4 MARCH

LD281330 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1300 GMT 28 Feb 79 LD

[Text] Riyadh--It has been decided to hold the emergency meeting of the Arab League Council next Sunday in the state of Kuwait to debate the armed conflict between the two parts of Yemen. This has been announced by Mahmud Riyad (Arab League secretary general) in a statement to SNA. He said that today he received an invitation from Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, Kuwait's deputy prime minister and foreign minister, on the welcome of the Kuwaiti Government to host the Arab League Council emergency session.

He added that the Arab League now is extending invitations to the Arab countries' foreign ministers to attend this meeting. Mr Riyad said that the discussions at the meeting would be restricted to the armed conflict which broke out between the Yemen Arab Republic and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen. The Arab League general secretary expressed the hope that the Arab countries will answer the call made by the kingdom and other Arab countries to cease fire and to withdraw forces beyond the borders prior to the meeting of the council.

SNA has learned that a large number of Arab foreign ministers have informed the secretary general of the league of their agreement to attend the emergency meeting.

ARAB ECONOMIC COUNCIL SESSION ENDS 28 FEB

LD281820 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1140 GMT 28 Feb 79 LD

[Excerpts] Riyadh--Heads and members of the Arab delegations taking part in the 26th session of the Arab Economic Council ended their meetings at noon today in King Faysal's hall, under the chairmanship of the minister of economy and finance and chairman of the session, Shaykh Muhammad Aba al-Khayl. The council approved the principles listed in the memo of the secretary general regarding the draft Arab unified investment agreement.

Regarding the new agreement on trade exchange among the Arab countries, the council calls on these countries to supply the General Secretariat with their remarks on the main principles and directions regarding the preparation of a new agreement on trade exchange between the Arab countries. The council also called on Arab countries which have not yet deposited their instruments of ratification of transport [word indistinct] agreement across Arab countries, to do so as soon as possible.

Regarding the strategy of Arab food security, the council decided to present the question to the council again after the extraordinary meeting of the Arab organization for agricultural development to be held in Baghdad at the beginning of the coming autumn.

The council decided to set up a special account to support studies, programs, research and activities of the general administration of economic affairs.

The council's recommendations include postponing the possibility of setting up the Arab housing bank, and to complete studies in this respect. The council recommends that the Arab League allocate the sum of $37,500 for these studies.

Regarding the setting up of an Arab program in the field of technical assistance, the council decided that the Arab technical aid fund should continue its present policy of giving petroleum aid to the Arab countries, without the need for setting up a separate program for technical aid in the present stage.

The council decided to refer the issue of setting up an Arab chamber of commerce to the coming session of the Arab League Council.

The council called on the countries which have not approved the draft agreement of mutual tax exemption of Arab aviation establishments, equipment and work, to submit their remarks speedily. The council also decided to ask a committee of Arab experts to meet in Baghdad within 3 months, at the invitation of the Iraqi Government, to finalize the project.

Regarding the setting up of an Arab center for technology, the council decided to continue with the project which was agreed at the meeting of the general committee of Arab-European dialog in Damascus from 11-12 June 1978.

ABU MAYZAR SPEAKS ON JORDANIAN-PLO DIALOG, ARAB SITUATION

JN280939 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 28 Feb 79 pp 1, 16 JN

[Report on an interview by AD-DUSTUR correspondent Nabil 'Amr with PLO Official Spokesman 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, who is currently visiting Jordan with a PLO delegation; time and place not indicated]

[Text] 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, PLO official spokesman and member of the Palestinian delegation currently in Jordan, has stressed the importance of the Jordanian-Palestinian dialog. He described this dialog as an urgent necessity for confronting the Zionist and imperialist challenges and plots, particularly the plot being engineered at Camp David.

In an interview with the AD-DUSTUR correspondent, Abu Mayzar said: No doubt the dimensions of the dangers menacing the Arab existence both now and in the future as a result of the Camp David agreements are clear to everyone.

In substance, these agreements are aimed at imposing subservience on the Arab nation in the interests of Zionism and imperialism and consequently are intended to liquidate the Palestinian question, the land, the people and their national rights and revolution. These agreements are also aimed at subjugating those Arabs who have not surrendered and at placing the Arab area, with all its resources, under the Israeli umbrella. This means the elimination of all the Arab struggle achievements over the last century.

Abu Mayzar said that the dangers of this course threaten not only the Palestinian people but all Arabs. Its danger knocks at every Arab capital's door. From this arises the importance of awareness of the nature of this stage and its basic contradiction as represented by the Camp David agreements, particularly the self-rule plot. Among other things, this plot is intended to consecrate the Zionist occupation and denial of the Palestinian people's inalienable national rights, including their right to return to their homeland, to determine their future and to national independence. Abu Mayzar said that the Arabs have realized this and expressed it in the Baghdad summit resolutions, which stressed rejection of the Camp David course, substance and results. Since the plot's dangers threaten all Arabs, it is essential to confront this plan with the broadest possible Arab base, at both the popular and official levels. This is why the Baghdad summit resolutions and relaxations in inter-Arab relations are important for confronting the common danger facing the Arab nation's destiny. In view of this, Jordanian-Palestinian relations express commitment to the Baghdad summit resolutions for confronting the common danger.

On the purpose of the PLO delegation's current visit and purpose to Jordan, Abu Mayzar said: Our visit to fraternal Jordan comes within the framework of relations and activities the PLO is undertaking with the Arab brothers to discuss ways of carrying out the Baghdad summit resolutions. The visit is also for the purpose of discussing current developments in the Arab and international arenas and for developing the common Arab struggle against hostile schemes. He also said: This visit will enable our delegation to listen and learn from our brother officials in Jordan and to exchange views on the issues our area is facing and on these issues' negative and positive ramifications.

On the PLO's stand toward the proposed agreement between Egypt and Israel in the event that it is signed, Abu Mayzar said: The mere convening of the second Camp David conference in itself constitutes a continuation by the United States and its tools of a course hostile to the Arab nation, particularly to the Palestinian people. We consider these talks a new link in the greater plot we already mentioned. The Arabs defined their stand toward this plot at the Baghdad summit and at the Confrontation and Steadfastness Front's summit conferences. This plot will only increase our determination to continue the struggle to resist and foil these agreements, side by side with the fraternal Egyptian people. Abu Mayzar continued by saying: the PLO, which rejected the Camp David agreements, will not hesitate to escalate its struggle through use of all means against these agreements and their results, particularly the self-rule plan. The PLO considers any party who contributes to implementing these agreements a partner in the plot against the Palestinian people and the Arab nation.

On his views of the current Arab situation and this stand's capability to confront the Camp David plot, Abu Mayzar said: The Arab situation is now better than it was a year ago. A year ago the situation was very bad, encouraging the United States and As-Sadat to proceed on a separate solution.

The visit to Jerusalem and the talks and agreements following it were links in the chain of the separate solution. The Arab nation confronted this course through the Confrontation and Steadfastness Front, the Syrian-Iraqi rapprochement and the Baghdad summit. This stand contributed to reversing the collapse. Abu Mayzar then continued: We consider the unitary Syrian-Iraqi rapprochement a pan-Arab achievement that created an effective strategic equation. This rapprochement is a practical answer, compensating the Arab nation for the current attempts to remove Egypt, with all of its national weight, from the conflict with the Zionist enemy. For this reason we declared through the PLO that we consider ourselves a natural militant extension of the military Syrian-Iraqi rapprochement. This rapprochement will have positive effects on strengthening the Arab stand in the face of the Zionist onslaught, in addition to being a framework that embodies a pan-Arab aim for which the Arabs have long worked. Abu Mayzar said: This rapprochement, which played a basic role in bringing about the Baghdad summit's success, will certainly bolster the Syrian-Jordanian-Palestinian ability for confrontation. We are now witnessing a new historic achievement, the Iranian revolution. This achievement has contributed to strengthening the Arab stand, particularly the Palestinian stand, against Zionism and its allies.

Abu Mayzar went on by saying: We are constantly looking forward to objective circumstances that can render the Arab stand decisive in developing the Arabs' present and future for the battle of liberation and sacrifices. Abu Mayzar continued: Naturally, however, the Arab stand has not reached the point for which we hope. The Arabs have a great many resources that are not correctly mobilized. There are still some negative aspects, which can only be tackled by deeper faith in the justice of our cause and in the need for serious and sincere action to achieve our aspirations for liberation, unity, progress and prosperity for the Arabs and mankind.

On the Iranian revolution and its positive effects on the Palestinian question and on the Arab area, Abu Mayzar said: In our view the Iranian revolution is the most important event ever to take place in the Middle East. Its effects will extend beyond the Arab area. The Iranian revolution's great success has dealt a heavy blow to hostile strategies in the Middle East. It is a turning point that has international effects. It is the only revolution made by people in the Third World, despite the fact that they were unarmed. He said that the Iranian revolution constitutes a collapse in Israeli strategy in the area. Before the revolution, Iran and Israel constituted a pincer against the Arab liberation movement, a gendarme for hostile interests, a menace to pan-Arab interests and the Arab national movement. Iran was an aid to the Zionist enemy against the Palestinian revolution. Therefore, it was no coincidence that brother Yasir 'Arafat was the first visitor to Iran, or that the revolutionary government's first resolution on the foreign level favored the Palestine cause against imperialism and Zionism. It was also no coincidence that brother Yasir 'Arafat was so welcomed by the masses. This indicates the deep relations that exist between the Iranian and Palestinian revolutions. It also indicates that the Palestine cause runs deep in the Islamic world, in addition to being a basic factor in the Arab nation's heart.

Abu Mayzar said: The Iranian revolution, whose eminent leader Ayatollah Khomeyni said that its victory will not be complete without liberating Palestine, the revolution that lowered the Israeli banner from the Israeli mission's building in Tehran and raised the Palestinian flag there in the most splendid rectification process, has given great momentum to the Palestinian cause.

Iran's revolution has caused great strategic, military, economic and oil losses for the Zionist enemy. It is well known that Iran was not only a market for Israeli products but a basic center upon which Israel depended as a gate for exporting its products to other areas.

Concluding his statement, Abu Mayzar said: We must stress that the Islamic duty requires that Turkey, a member of the Islamic Congress organization, follow Iran's course and break off all its diplomatic, cultural, economic and other relations with Israel, replacing them with a PLO office, as happened in Tehran. Such a step by Turkey, a fraternal Islamic country, is expected by the Palestinian people and the Arab nation. This step, in addition to righing a wrong, is a necessity dictated by the need for harmony with the Islamic Congress organization's resolutions and charter, for the organization includes both Turkey and the Arabs. The PLO is one of the founding parties of this organization.

FATAH OFFICIAL ADDRESSES AL-'ASIFAH POLITICAL CADRES

JN281852 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1630 GMT 28 Feb 79 JN

[Text] Brother Abu Jihad, member of the Fatah Central Committee and of the Al-'Asifah Forces' General Command, today stressed that the Palestinian revolution will continue to escalate its military and political struggle inside the occupied land.

Referring to the Palestinian revolution's support for the Iranian people's revolution and for world liberation forces, brother Abu Jihad pointed out that, proceeding from its revolutionary nature alongside world liberation movements, the Palestinian revolution backs and supports all forms of struggle against imperialism and Zionism.

Brother Abu Jihad, who was speaking at the opening of martyr Capt Sulayman Salih [words indistinct] course for the Al-'Asifah forces' political cadres, reaffirmed the Palestinian revolution's stand which rejects and struggles against the results of the Camp David conference, particularly the autonomy plan which the Camp David partners are trying to impose on the Palestinian people.

Brother Abu Jihad stressed that our people inside the occupied land will continue their struggle against all the conspiracies of the enemy and the imperialist forces. He stressed that the repression and terror practiced by the enemy against [words indistinct] will only strengthen this people's determination to continue their heroic struggle to liberate the land and achieve victory.

KUWAIT

OIL MINISTER DENIES OPEC SPLIT ON OIL PRICES

LD281511 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1243 GMT 28 Feb 79 LD

[Excerpt] Kuwait--Kuwaiti Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah as-Sabah today denied there were any divisions on oil prices among the 13 OPEC members. Shaykh 'Ali was replying to journalists' questions about some OPEC members that recently increased their prices, while other members--specifically Saudi Arabia--decided to maintain them at the same level. He said that this did not mean a division existed. He explained that OPEC was responsible for fixing the minimum price and that members of the organization are bound by this "while the additions are being imposed by oil market conditions."

Production Increase Denial

LD281530 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1338 GMT 28 Feb 79 LD

[Text] Kuwait--Official sources in the Ministry of Oil here today have denied press reports that Kuwait has increased its average daily output of oil from 1 million barrels per day to 2.5 million barrels. The sources have stated that the top level, the ceiling, of Kuwaiti output is still as it has been. However, they have added that the actual output may rise during certain times of the year, especially during winter in accordance with the increase in demand for Kuwaiti crude oil in the market. However, the yearly average does not change throughout the year. The sources mentioned that demand for Kuwaiti gas recently has increased noticeably, but they did not give any details about this.

'ARAFAT MEETS WITH AMIR, PRIME MINISTER

LD281136 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0715 GMT 28 Feb 79 LD

[Text] Kuwait--PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat began his talks here today with a meeting with the amir, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah. The Palestinian leader also had a meeting with Crown Prince Sa'd al-Abdallah as-Sabah, Kuwaiti prime minister, and he is to hold talks with Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, later on this morning. The talks are expected to deal with the results of 'Arafat's visit to Iran last week.

'Arafat arrived here yesterday accompanied by member of the Central Committee of the Fatah movement Mahmud 'Abbas. At a meeting yesterday with Palestinian popular associations, 'Arafat said that his visit to Iran was not for Palestine's sake but "for the sake of the Arab countries and in particular the gulf countries." He went on to say that he felt "a great affection and a genuine response" from the new Iranian leaders vis-a-vis the issues of the region, and said that the Iranian revolution was "a support for" the Palestinian question.

The Palestinian leader disclosed that documents had been discovered in the Israeli embassy in Iran "implicating the shah's regime in espionage against the gulf countries" and exposing activities which the Israelis had intended to carry out in the countries of the region. Yasir 'Arafat denounced U.S. policy in the Middle East and said that its aim was to liquidate the Palestinian revolution and to strike at Arab solidarity. He stressed however that this policy would fail to realize its aims.

PDRY, YAR MINISTERS ARRIVE ON 28 FEBRUARY

LD281520 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1354 GMT 28 Feb 79 LD

[Text] Kuwait--Two envoys, one from the Yemen Arab Republic and the other from the Democratic Republic of Yemen, arrived here today within the framework of two separate tours they are conducting to a number of Arab countries. North Yemen Minister of Information Muhammad Salim al-Basindwa arrived here from Amman after visiting Jordan, Syria and Iraq. South Yemen Minister of Planning 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Wali arrived here from Abu Dhabi. The two ministers are among a number of envoys sent by their governments to explain their viewpoints on the present fighting between the two countries.

QATAR

'ARAFAT ARRIVES IN DOHA 1 MARCH

NC011021 Doha QNA in Arabic 0934 GMT 1 Mar 79 NC

[Text] Doha, 1 March--PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Doha this morning from Riyadh; he heads the Palestinian delegation which is on a brief visit to Qatar as part of a tour to a number of states in the area.

He was met at Doha International Airport by Qatari Minister of Finance and Oil Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Khalifah Al Thani; Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani; Public Works Minister Khalid ibn 'Abdallah al-'Atiyah; adviser to the amir of Qatar Dr Hasan Kamil; Chairman of the Consultative Council 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Khalid; heads of Arab diplomatic missions in Doha; acting head of the PLO office in Doha 'Abd ash-Shafi Siyah; and Chief of Foreign Ministry Protocol Ahmad Jasim al-Mulla.

Meeting with Amir

NC011023 Doha QNA in Arabic 0955 GMT 1 Mar 79 NC

[Text] Doha, 1 March--Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, the amir of Qatar, received in his office in Doha Palace this morning PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

The meeting was attended by Qatari Finance and Oil Minister Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Khalifah Al Thani and Khalid al-Hasan and Mahmud 'Abbas, members of the Fatah Central Committee.

QNA has learned that during the 90-minute meeting the amir and 'Arafat discussed the current situation in the Middle East and the good fraternal relations between Qatar and the PLO.

SAUDI ARABIA

KING KHALID RECEIVES YASIR 'ARAFAT

LD281654 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1533 GMT 28 Feb 79 LD

[Text] Riyadh--His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz received Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of PLO Executive Committee, at the royal court in Al-Ma'dan today at 1800.

Present at the meeting were His Royal Highness the Crown Prince and Deputy Prime Minister Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz; Second Deputy Prime Minister and Commander of the National Guard His Royal Highness 'Abdullah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz; Minister of Defense and Aviation His Royal Highness Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz; also present were Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal and his majesty's adviser Dr Rashad Fir'awn. Mr 'Arafat arrived at noon today in the kingdom within his tour of the region.

KUWAITI, BAHRAINI FOREIGN MINISTERS DEPART AFTER TALKS

LD281646 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1535 GMT 28 Feb 79 LD

[Text] Riyadh--Kuwait Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir and Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah left Riyadh this evening at the end of their brief visit to the kingdom, during which they had a meeting with Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal. The two ministers arrived in Riyadh this morning.

The two ministers stated that their talks with Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal had been fruitful and successful. In a statement to SNA, the two ministers said that their talks covered the Arab League Council's emergency meeting, which is due to be held on Sunday in Kuwait to discuss the armed conflict between the two Yemens. They expressed the hope that the meeting would succeed in settling the conflict between the two parts of Yemen and restore harmony to them. The two ministers stressed their countries' concern for a cease-fire between the two countries.

UAE

FEDERAL NATIONAL ASSEMBLY HOLDS FIRST ORDINARY SESSION

JN010723 Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0550 GMT 1 Mar 79 JN

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 1 March--The Federal National Assembly held the first meeting in its first ordinary session of the fourth legislative chapter this morning. The meeting, which began at 1000 today, was headed by the oldest member. The new assembly chairman will be elected today.

Chairman Elected

JN210723 Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0600 GMT 1 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 1 March--This morning the Federal National Assembly elected His Excellency Turaym 'Imran as chairman of the assembly's new session.

YEMEN--PDRY

PDRY AGREES TO ATTEND ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL MEETING

LD281124 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1045 GMT 28 Feb 79 LD

[Text] Cairo--The PDRY has agreed to attend the Arab League Council's emergency meeting which the YAR had called to discuss the situation on the border between the two countries, provided that the meeting is held in any Arab capital except Cairo. Arab League Secretary General Mahmud Riyad received a memo today in this respect from Mr Taha Sabri, PDRY permanent Arab League representative.

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON FIGHTING; SAUDIS ACCUSED

TA281124 Paris AFP in English 1117 GMT 28 Feb 79 TA

[Text] Aden, Feb 28 (AFP)--South Yemen's Democratic National Front claimed today that South Yemeni forces have occupied a number of areas on the border with North Yemen.

Fighting was continuing at the border towns of Bayda and Qaataba, at Damt, 20 kilometres (12 miles) north of the border, at Wazia, in regions about 130 kilometres north of Aden, and at Harib, further north on the border, approximately 120 kilometres southeast of the North Yemeni capital San'a', a communique said.

South Yemen's troops were also occupying the regions of Arhab, Nehm, Marhaba, Sufian, Al-Jabal, Bani Abd and Bab Najran to the Northeast of Sana'a, the front said.

The communique accused the Saudi Arabian Embassy here of playing a "subversive role" and "sowing discord," to prevent unity between the two Yemens and serve imperialism and Saudi interests.

The front would favour any attempt to mediate "but will not renounce its struggle against the regime in San'a' until Yemeni unity has been achieved," the communique concluded.

DNF ISSUES STATEMENT 28 FEB ON ARMED STRUGGLE

ID010824 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 28 Feb 79 ID/EA

[Text] The Democratic National Front [DNF] in the northern part of the homeland has stressed that the armed struggle waged by the masses of our Yemeni people in the north came as a reaction to the San'a' rulers' foolhardy and barbaric policy, which is marked by various forms of comprehensive police and military suppression of our people and their nationalist movement.

In a statement issued today, the front said our people in the north have long been struggling to liberate the northern part of our homeland from the reactionary control and fascist reactionary military rule of the agent of reaction. The front said it had wanted to settle matters by dialog. However, the San'a' regime had stepped up its fascist campaign in several areas, using various weapons, including tanks and artillery. It had therefore been necessary to intensify the struggle of the masses of the people and form the armed revolutionary people's forces to defend the people.

The DNF statement said the revolutionary people's forces had been strengthened by the recruitment of members of the armed forces in the northern part of the homeland and by the desire of the masses to take up arms. This had enabled them to change the struggle's position from one of defense to one of attack and to liberate several areas from the agent authority in San'a'.

The statement stressed that the DNF and the masses of the people rejected the portrayal of the conflict as one between the north and south. It said that the conflict was basically one between the front and the masses of the people, on the one hand, and the San'a' regime and those backing it, namely reaction and imperialism, on the other.

The statement said that when the San'a' regime launched armed aggression against the southern part of the homeland last week, its aim was to deceive public opinion outside our country and to conceal the true nature of the conflict--its scope and the parties to it. The DNF stressed its strong desire for security and stability in the Arabian Peninsula region. The statement said the front considered that in the interests of security and stability, the reactionary and imperialist forces should stop their interference in the affairs of the states of the Arabian Peninsula and the Arabian Gulf and in the affairs of the Yemen, an interference which peaked with the assassination of the martyr Lt Col Ibrahim al-Hamdi on 11 October 1977.

DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF LEAVES ADEN FOR LIBYA

JN281850 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1830 GMT 28 Feb 79 JN

[Text] Aden, 28 February--Lt Col Ahmad Salim 'Ubayd, PDRY deputy chief of staff, left Aden for Tripoli this evening.

Lieutenant Colonel 'Ubayd is carrying a message from 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, chairman of the Presidium of the PDRY People's Supreme Council, to Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. The message deals with the current situation between the two parts of Yemen and with the Arabian Peninsula region as well as with the PDRY's stand toward this situation.

IRAQI, SYRIAN ENVOYS ARRIVE IN ADEN, MEET LEADER

JN011034 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 1 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Aden, 1 March--The envoys of Iraqi President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad met here today with PDRY People's Supreme Council Presidium Chairman 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il.

The envoys, Iraqi Revolution Command Council member and Planning Minister 'Adnan Husayn and Syrian Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs Jamil Shayya, arrived here from San'a' earlier today.

Shayya said after his arrival in Aden that the unified Iraqi-Syrian delegation is carrying a joint letter from Presidents Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr and Hafiz al-Asad to Presidium Chairman of the PDRY Supreme People's Council 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il for the purpose of stopping the military operations and beginning amicable talks to find solutions for the regrettable incidents taking place between the two parts of Yemen. He added that Syria and Iraq were deeply moved by the incidents taking place between the two fraternal countries.

Shayya said that regardless of the circumstances and justifications that brought the situation to a head, Presidents al-Bakr and al-Asad are eager to stop Arab bloodshed and to prevent a rupture in the Arab position at a time when we as Arabs are in dire need of unifying our ranks and pooling our efforts to cope with the bigger danger, the imperialist-Zionist onslaught against our Arab nation.

Shayya explained that Syria and Iraq had expressed their stand on the fighting between the two parts of Yemen and their sincere wishes to stop this fighting through their eagerness to pool Arab efforts in the bigger battle against imperialism and Zionism.

The Iraqi and Syrian envoys were met at the airport by PDRY Foreign Minister Muhammad Salih Muti, Foreign Relations Committee chairman at the People's Supreme Council 'Ali as-Silali, and high-ranking officials of the Iraqi Embassy in Aden.

YEMEN--YAR

MINISTER CLAIMS BORDER FIGHTING 'ENTIRELY IN NORTH'

TA282124 Paris AFP in English 2028 GMT 28 Feb 79 TA

[Text] Beirut, Feb 28 (AFP)--Fierce fighting around the North Yemeni capital, San'a', has been going on since last night between north [words indistinct] Yemeni Communications Minister Mahmud 'Abdallah 'Ushaysh said here today.

The minister, in Beirut to brief Lebanese President Elias Sarkis on his country's position in the inter-Yemeni dispute and speaking at a press conference here, did not specify exactly where the fighting was going on.

But he said that the North Yemeni fighting was between government troops and "several northern tribes which have launched an offensive following government repression of the opposition."

South Yemen, 'Ushaysh said, had not been drawn into the conflict which was taking place "entirely in North Yemen."

South Yemeni troops, Mr 'Abdallah 'Ushaysh went on, had limited themselves to replying to shelling by the North Yemenis on the joint border between the two countries.

The fighting in North Yemen, he said, was between "the clique in power in San'a' and its opponents, supported by South Yemen which cannot remain indifferent to what is going on in the north when the two peoples form a single nation."

(The communication minister's statement appeared at variance with a statement by the Democratic National Front, released in Aden earlier today, which said that South Yemeni forces had occupied a number of areas on the border with its northern neighbour.)

(South Yemeni troops had also occupied regions of Arqub, Nehm, Marhaba, Sufyan, al-Jabal, Bani Abd and Bab Najran to the northeast of the North Yemen capital, San'a', the front statement said.)

(Fighting was also continuing the front statement said, at the border towns of [words indistinct] some 20 kms--12 miles--north of the border at Waqzaqiya in the area about 130 kms approximately 120 kms--70 miles--southeast of San'a'.")

Several "sectors" of the North Yemeni Army had gone over to the ranks of the North Yemeni Democratic National Front which, Mr 'Ushaysh said, represents the opposition. These defectors were now fighting to overthrow the regime headed by North Yemeni head of state 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

Among the North Yemeni soldiers to go over to the opposition were parachute troops formerly led by Colonel 'Abdallah 'Abd al-'Alam and commandos led by Colonel 'Abdallah al-Hamdi, the South Yemeni minister said.

(Col 'Abd al-'Alam took refuge in South Yemen in October 1977 while Col al-Hamdi is the brother of North Yemeni President Ibrahim Muhammad al-Hamdi who was assassinated in October 1977.)

If these reports about an offensive launched by tribes in the north of North Yemen, on the border with Saudi Arabia, are confirmed, it could explain the solemn warnings issued by Saudi Arabia and the decision by the Saudi Defence Ministry to recall troops from leave sources here said.

Asked about South Yemeni relations with Saudi Arabia, Mr 'Abdallah 'Ushaysh said that at present there were no "differences" between the two countries. "We are ready to accept any Arab effort, Saudi or otherwise, to put an end to the conflict," he added. He rejected the idea that "American imperialism" was responsible for the trouble in the region or that the U.S. was trying to "compensate for what it has just lost in Iran."

OFFICIAL BLAMES ADEN, FOREIGN BACKING FOR FIGHTING

LD281253 Cairo AL-KHBAR in Arabic 26 Feb 79 p 6 LD

[Unattributed report]

[Text] YAR Deputy Minister of Information Hasan al-Lawzi said at a press conference he held in Cairo yesterday that foreign hands are behind the Aden government's escalation of its military operations against the YAR and that the aim of such escalation is to involve the YAR in international conflicts and to serve the strategy of certain major powers in the entire Arab region.

He said that YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has decided to send envoys to the Arab countries to acquaint their leaders with the latest details of the recent aggression and the significant facts it has revealed.

He said that the YAR has asked for an urgent meeting of the Arab League Council in order to discuss the possible serious consequences of the Aden regime's attitude. It has also called for a factfinding mission comprising the Arab League's permanent military committee to study and appraise Aden's aggression against YAR territory.

He said that the Aden government chose this time in particular to launch its attack because it thinks world opinion is preoccupied with events in Iran and the Sino-Vietnamese conflict.

He said that reconciliation with the Aden regime seems extremely difficult because it is a regime founded on aggression and conspiracy.

He urged the Arab League to enforce the resolutions it adopted against the Aden government following the criminal assassination of President al-Ghashmi and to adopt a more positive attitude. All the Arabs must realize that the danger posed by Aden is a threat to the entire Arab nation.

He said that the recent criminal attacks by the ruling clique in Aden are just a link in the chain of plots which began with the assassination of President al-Ghashmi. Regular Aden forces, supported by concentrations of foreign forces, last Tuesday began launching repeated attacks along the border between the two Yemens in Qa'tabah, Al-Murayyis, Al-Bayda and other areas in an attempt to penetrate into the North, but to no avail. Just the reverse happened, in that so far some 300 soldiers have joined the northern forces. They have surrendered their arms and equipment and declared their loyalty to our regime and its nationalist leadership.

Despite these attacks and the escalation of the fighting, President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih--appreciating the serious consequences that an outbreak of war might have and realizing the aims of the conspiratorial colonialist plan that is intended to be implemented at the expense of Yemeni blood--has issued orders to our armed forces, the security forces and the people's forces to show self-restraint and patience.

He added: Our political command holds the puppet regime in Aden responsible for all the consequences that might ensue from the continued aggression because we will not remain silent. The YAR has decided to acquaint the Arab nation with the situation so that it will shoulder its responsibility. For this reason we have called for an urgent meeting of the Arab League Council. We also called on the Arab League to quickly set up a factfinding commission to investigate the position in the area and ascertain in whose interest the Aden regime is operating. We have already said and we reiterate today that the attacks are not only aimed at Yemen but against the entire Arab nation, its oil wealth and its strategic position.

PRESIDENT CALLS FOR ARAB SUMMIT TO DISCUSS CLASHES

JN271248 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1210 GMT 27 Feb 79 JN

[Text] Brother Lt Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces, has confirmed that the YAR has requested an Arab summit conference to investigate the aggression of the forces of the Aden ruling clique against our border areas.

In a statement to the KUWAITI NEWS AGENCY yesterday, the brother president and leader emphasized that the best way to end this conflict is represented by the position taken by the YAR in asking the Arab League to convene an Arab summit so the Arab states will pinpoint the aggressor and the victim and thus end the conflict between brothers.

The brother leader added: The position taken by the YAR is the best proof of our good intentions and of what we are truly saying. It also proves the falsehood of what the Aden rulers are saying.

The brother leader once again held the Aden ruling clique responsible for the mounting tension and clashes. He said that the Aden forces are repeatedly attacking densely populated border towns and villages in the YAR, causing their residents to flee. They are also planting mines on the roads and putting poison in wells.

The brother leader confirmed that the forces of the puppet Aden regime are continuing their heavy artillery shelling on the border towns and villages and are advancing toward these border areas.

PRESIDENT RECEIVES JORDANIAN, IRAQI, SYRIAN ENVOYS

JN282059 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 28 Feb 79 JN

[Text] Brother Lt Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces, received in his office this afternoon brother 'Adnan Husayn, member of the Iraqi Revolution Command Council and planning minister; brother Jamil Shayya, Syrian deputy prime minister for economic affairs; and brother Hasan Ibrahim, Jordanian minister of state for foreign affairs. The meeting was attended by brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister; Muhammad al-Junayd, deputy prime minister; 'Ali al-Matari, minister of agriculture; 'Ali Wasi ath-Thawr, minister of development and chairman of the Planning Central Council; 'Ali Muhammad, deputy minister of economy; Lt Col Mujahid Abu Shawarib, governor and commander of Ma'rib Province; their excellencies the ambassadors of Jordan and Syria in San'a'; and the Iraqi charge d'affaires in San'a'.

At the outset of the meeting, the brother president welcomed them and explained the YAR's stand toward the premeditated attacks and the exporting of sabotage by the ruling regime in Aden. The brother president also explained to the envoys the YAR's desire to halt the bloodshed. [words indistinct] from war and fratricide, to marshal potentials for the sake of development and to overcome all signs of backwardness. The brother president said the YAR was adhering to this by exercising self-restraint and trying to resolve issues by means of wisdom and logic. The brother president also explained to the envoys of the fraternal countries the YAR's diligent and continued attempts against [words indistinct].

The brother envoys conveyed the greetings of His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan, Iraqi President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. They expressed their satisfaction with the pan-Arab and wise stand of the YAR. They declared that they had been instructed by the leaders of the three countries to exert every effort to stop fratricide, to restore normal relations and to put an end to all operations that are bound to exacerbate the situation. The brother president expressed the YAR's appreciation for this Arab initiative. We welcomed every Arab effort to end the repeated attacks by the regular forces of the ruling regime in Aden--attacks which are still going on. At 2100, brother Lt Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salim, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces, hosted a banquet in honor of the heads and members of the delegations of Syria, Iraq and Jordan. The banquet was attended by Vice President Qadi 'Abd al-Karim 'Abdallah al-'Arashi, Prime Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, a number of officials and the Arab diplomatic corps in San'a'.

Envoys' Departure

JN010904 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0850 GMT 1 Mar 79 JN

[Text] San'a', 1 March--Iraqi Revolution Command Council member and Planning Minister 'Adnan Husayn and Syrian Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs Jamil Shayya, envoys of Presidents Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr and Hafiz al-Asad, left for Aden this morning.

Prior to their departure, Shayya told INA that the unified Iraqi-Syrian delegation will convey a joint message from Presidents al-Bakr and Al-Asad to 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il. He expressed hope that the unified delegation will find response on the part of the PDRY officials. Shayya said we hope to find the same response in Aden that we have found in San'a', because such a response is in the supreme interest of both fraternal countries. Shayya added that termination of the military operations will provide the opportunity and open the way for fraternal, peaceful solutions to all pending problems between the two parts of Yemen. The Iraqi and Syrian envoys were seen off at San'a' airport by YAR Deputy Prime Minister Muhammad al-Junayd and by several YAR ministers. The INA correspondent in San'a' reports that Jordanian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hasan Ibrahim has also left for Aden. The Iraqi and Syrian envoys met yesterday with YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and conveyed a joint message to him from Presidents al-Bakr and Al-Asad. The meeting was attended by YAR Prime Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani. 'Adnan Husayn, Iraqi Revolution Command Council member, minister of planning and President al-Bakr's envoy, held a closed meeting last night with YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. Husayn said after the meeting, which lasted well over 3 hours, that the meeting's discussion was focused on the need to normalize relations between the two parts of Yemen.

KHALIL SAYS CAMP DAVID TALKS ACHIEVED PROGRESS

NC281316 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1238 GMT 28 Feb 79 NC

[Text] Alexandria, 28 February--Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr Mustafa Khalil has said that the recent Camp David talks have achieved progress and created positive stands. He said: I disagree with Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin's statement that we have presented new proposals or proposals inconsistent with the Camp David agreement.

In a statement he made to foreign correspondents before meeting with President Anwar as-Sadat today, the prime minister said: If I receive an invitation from U.S. President Carter to go to Washington I will respond to it and say that what Begin suggested is inconsistent with Camp David.

Asked whether the peace talks would fail in view of the present danger, Dr Khalil said: No. I am not saying that there is a big danger. I would like to say that the talks cannot possibly fail provided Begin shows adequate readiness.

Meets As-Sadat, Makes Statement

NC281534 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1508 GMT 28 Feb 79 NC

[Text] Alexandria, 28 February--Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil made a statement following his meeting with President Anwar as-Sadat today. In his statement, Dr Khalil announced that at this meeting the situation was reviewed from all persepectives in light of the discussions which were held at Camp David at ministerial level.

Dr Khalil said that a telephone contact took place yesterday afternoon between President Carter and President as-Sadat.

Dr Khalil announced that the situation will be reassessed following the discussions which the U.S. President will hold with the Israeli prime minister within the next few days.

In his statement, the prime minister said: On this occasion, Egypt emphasizes its adherence to the necessity of achieving a comprehensive and just peace for the peoples of the area. It is also imperative for this peace to be based on justice and respect for sovereignty in accordance with the letter and spirit of the Camp David framework. As I have said, another meeting will be held to assess the situation in light of the details which the president will receive about Mr Begin's meetings in Washington. Egypt's position will then be defined.

Agrees With Carter's Assessment

NC281615 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1505 GMT 28 Feb 79 NC

[Text] Alexandria, 28 February--Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil has announced that we still believe that peace is possible in accordance with the letter and spirit of the Camp David agreements, which guarantee equal rights for all the nations of the Middle East.

Dr Khalil made this statement to newsmen following his meeting with President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat today.

Dr Khalil was asked what U.S. President Carter had told President as-Sadat during their telephone conversation yesterday. The prime minister answered that all he can say is that President Carter has given President as-Sadat the complete picture on the discussions that will be held with Mr Begin.

About the conditions under which President as-Sadat would personally go to Washington, Dr Khalil answered: As I have said, we will reassess our position after we hear from President Carter about the results of his meeting with Mr Menahem Begin.

Dr Khalil said: It was Mr Dayan who came up with the idea of inviting Mr Begin to attend new meetings during our discussions at Camp David. What happened was that Mr Dayan said that he could not continue with these negotiations without a mandate. Therefore, he proposed, if we had no objection, that Mr Begin personally come to Camp David to participate in the negotiations. Naturally we said that we had no objection to this.

The prime minister added: Then, Dayan contacted Mr Begin by telephone. One or 2 days later, President Carter read a statement that was prepared by Cyrus Vance, Dayan and me. It was prepared with our agreement--the three of us. What actually happened was that President Carter read the statement without changing a single word in it. This also means that Mr Dayan knew the contents of the statement and agreed on it after he had earlier contacted Mr Begin by telephone.

Dr Khalil was asked: Is this now a psychological matter, or is it related to major differences that still exist over specific issues? For instance, are these differences connected with who should be invited to attend? Dr Khalil answered: We do not mix personal matters with the causes and higher interests of any country.

The prime minister was also asked: Do you agree with President Carter's description of the differences between Egypt and Israel as being absolutely unimportant? He answered that he fully agreed with what the U.S. President had said. He added: I believe that we have achieved a very good improvement and have made considerable achievements that can become the basis for a real agreement.

PAPERS ON BEGIN'S STATEMENTS, FIGHTING IN YEMEN

NC010840 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 1 Mar 79 NC

[Press review]

[Excerpts] The Cairo papers today refer to the statement by the Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin that he will go to Washington today for talks with President Carter despite the serious rigidity on Egypt's part. The papers report that Begin has alleged that Egypt has submitted new proposals inconsistent with the two Camp David accords.

AL-AHRAM answers these allegations on its front page. It expresses belief that Menahem Begin's statements are not made by Menahem Begin in his capacity as the Israeli prime minister but by Menahem Begin, the one-time leader of the terrorist IRGUN organization; such conduct and departure from all rules of etiquette and diplomacy by a responsible prime minister cannot be accepted.

The paper adds: Begin's statements indicate that he lost self-control when he discovered that the Israeli delegation to the Camp David discussions could not equal the objective and logical approach of the Egyptian delegation. Moreover, Begin has concluded that the statements made by President Carter the day before yesterday reflect support for the Egyptian view. The paper affirms: By his position and thoughtless statements, Begin tries to mislead the Israeli people so that they are unaware of his attempts to evade the signing of a peace agreement. In conclusion, AL-AHRAM says: If Begin believes that the signing of a just peace agreement means the signing of a war treaty, then Begin should be the first to know that wars do not require treaties. Extremists, such as Begin--who are fond of killing, destruction and usurpation of rights--are masters in the art of war.

Cairo papers also refer to President as-Sadat's meeting yesterday with Yahya Jaghman, personal representative of the YAR president and 'Abdallah al-Asnaj, YAR foreign minister. The papers say that Yahya Jaghman conveyed to President as-Sadat a letter from the YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. The Yemeni delegation also explained all aspects of the Yemeni situation to President as-Sadat, and told him that the Yemeni Government has asked for a meeting of the Arab League Council. The papers say that President as-Sadat agreed that Egypt should attend this meeting which will take place next Sunday in Kuwait on the level of foreign ministers.

Writing editorially under the title "An Arab Tragedy," AL-AHRAM says: Arab brother is once again killing Arab brother. The bullet is fired from a rifle carried by an Arab to lodge in the heart of another Arab. Arab blood is being shed by a dagger from an Arab hand. Arabs are being killed by persons holding an Arab citizenship.

The paper asks: Is there a worse tragedy? It adds: Two Arab states--North Yemen and South Yemen--have clashed again. YAR Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Asnaj, who visited Cairo recently, stated that this clash between the two states is the result of an international conflict--the big states chart the policies and the others pay the price. AL-AHRAM goes on: The current conflict between the two Arab states is acquiring a new dimension. The paper points out that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has declared a state of emergency; it has withdrawn its forces from Lebanon to be present in Saudi Arabia, and alerted all pilots to return to their bases. This indicates a possible extension and widening of the conflict between the two states.

AL-AHRAM stresses: Nothing hurts Egyptian feelings more than this repeat of tragedy, as has occurred in the past--between Syria and Lebanon, Algeria and Morocco, Iraq and Kuwait, Syria and the Palestinians, Jordan and the Palestinians, and between North and South Yemen. The paper expresses belief that it is an Arab responsibility to rise above their differences and to stop this Arab bloodshed and tragedy. It adds that it is also an Arab responsibility to face their commitments bravely. In conclusion, AL-AHRAM emphasizes that the tragedy is not only the mere fighting between two Arab states but it is the continuation of this fighting under the very eye of the Arabs.

Israeli radio yesterday broadcast a statement by a responsible source which said: The Egyptian negotiators who were expected to adopt a flexible stand have become more inflexible and have gone back on their earlier position. The source added: The extremism in the Arab world and in the Islamic countries following the recent events in Iran has been one of the reasons for the inflexibility of the Egyptian negotiator.

What does Menahem Begin mean by this statement attributed to a well-informed source?

Menahem Begin is the first to know that to this day Egypt has not changed its position since President as-Sadat made his historic visit to Jerusalem. Menahem Begin is also the first to know that the framework of the Camp David agreement embraces all the demands that President as-Sadat made in his speech before the Knesset as well as during the Camp David talks in President Carter's presence.

If Begin's aim is to try to mislead public opinion then he has failed, because official documents confirm that Egypt has not changed its position. Rather, it is the Israelis, and Begin in particular, who are trying to dissociate themselves from an agreement to which they put their signature. Let the Israeli prime minister go back to President as-Sadat's speech before the Knesset and reread it; let him go back to the Camp David documents and review all the talks held last September and the agreement which he signed, and which all the world saw him do on television.

As for the Iranian events, they not only confirm Egypt's original viewpoint but also further confirm the defeat of the Israeli viewpoint and the political line pursued by Menahem Begin's government. Therefore, the Israelis are resorting to deception both as a means and a policy in the hope of concealing their defeat not only in Tehran but also in all the political circles and before world opinion. It is needless to say that this fumbling by the Israeli prime minister clearly reflects the acute differences within the Israeli Cabinet and between the conflicting currents in Israeli politics.

Israel has no choice but to declare its stand frankly and unequivocally, without trying to blame the United States one time and Egypt at other times. The Israeli prime minister must define his position: Does he want peace or is he trying to evade it?

AS-SADAT MEETS WITH ALEXANDRIA UNIVERSITY STAFF

NC281550 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 28 Feb 79 NC

[Text] President Anwar as-Sadat this afternoon met with the president, professors and members of the Teaching Club of Alexandria University. The meeting was attended by Education and Culture Minister Dr Hasan Isma'il, director of the president's office Hasan Kamil, and Alexandria Governor Muhammad Fu'ad Hilmi.

The president delivered a speech in which he spoke about the factors involved in building the Egyptian man and the efforts being exerted for his welfare. The president also discussed the role that the Alexandria University must undertake to promote Egyptian society and its effective contribution in building the Egyptian man.

The president explained the development of political life in Egypt since the 'Urabi revolution and until the corrective revolution on 15 May 1971, and also explained the bases on which democracy in Egypt must be established.

PRESIDENT AS-SADAT RECEIVES YAR ENVOYS 28 FEB

NC281610 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 28 Feb 79 NC

[Text] This afternoon in Alexandria President Anwar as-Sadat received the personal representative of the YAR president, Yahya Jaghman, and the YAR foreign minister, 'Abdallah al-Asnaj.

After the meeting the YAR foreign minister told the radio correspondent that he and the personal representative delivered a written message from YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to President as-Sadat concerning the situation between North and South Yemen as a result of the continuing aggression which the Aden government has launched against Yemeni cities and villages. He added: We found understanding on the part of President as-Sadat for the reality of the grave situation in the area and its effect on the security, safety and stability of this area.

AT-TUHAMI HOLDS TALKS WITH PRC FOREIGN MINISTER

NC281337 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 28 Feb 79 NC

[Text] The official talks between Deputy Prime Minister in the president's office Hassan at-Tuhami and Chinese Foreign Minister Huang Hua began in Beijing this morning. The talks will deal with developments in the Middle East situation and the important international problems.

Hasan at-Tuhami arrived in China yesterday from Japan following a 1-week visit there.

AL-AKHBAR: NO TROOP CONCENTRATION ON LIBYAN BORDER

NC011817 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0640 GMT 1 Mar 79 NC

[From the press review]

[Text] Cairo, 1 March--AL-AKHBAR comments today on allegations made in the last few days by Libyan media that Egypt is planning an attack on Libya--that it has massed five divisions on the Libyan border for this purpose--at a time when reports from Libya say that Al-Qadhdhafi has concentrated Libyan troops along the border with Egypt and has evicted the Egyptians from certain areas in Bengasi Province.

The paper says: The entire world knows that Al-Qadhdhafi is the prey of imagination and delirium. He is not able to master himself or any of his actions. He is a pawn in the hands of Marxist communism moving him as they please and in the direction they want. He is a cat's-paw, no more and no less. Therefore we must look deeper into the allegations he persistently makes and into his present move. We need to understand the devious Marxist hand which moves him on the stage so as to achieve its own objectives and aims.

The paper adds: It is not at all unlikely that the communist hand dominating Al-Qadhdhafi is in fact the hand which prompted him to make this move and embark on an adventure of disturbances against Egypt so that the communists can create a new area of disturbance in the Middle East. This hand previously concocted, with Al-Qadhdhafi, several plots of subversion and destruction against Egypt, but all these plots failed. It is now left with nothing but to plan this adventure hoping it will create disturbance and dispute in the area.

AL-AKHBAR further says: It is not unlikely that this vile attack and the stupid accusations being made against Egypt by Al-Qadhdhafi and his propaganda media are in preparation of a planned action and with intent and purpose. If it is true that Al-Qadhdhafi has massed troops along the border with Egypt as the reports say, then they definitely cannot entirely consist of Libyans, but mostly of Cuban and other mercenaries, and Marxist experts and agents.

The paper adds: This Al-Qadhdhafi-Marxist plot will not shake Egypt; it will meet the fate of all previous plots. It will definitely end in failure, but the painful consequence is that the poor Libyan people, a fraternal Arab people dear to our hearts, will be the only victim. The Marxists do not care for the Libyan people and do not mind if they become the victim of their purposes and objectives. Insane Al-Qadhdhafi does not care for his people and is a mere toy in the hands of the Marxists.

In conclusion, AL-AKHBAR says: Writing this is to draw attention to the Al-Qadhdhafi-Marxist plot while it is still in the planning stage and to expose its devious purpose and ambitions. Duty dictates that we draw the attention of the Libyan people to this fact so that they are not deceived by the false allegations of insane Al-Qadhdhafi. Also, we do so to emphasize that Egypt, the same Egypt which mobilized its efforts, funds and men, and drenched the land of Libya with innocent Egyptian blood to defend the Libyan people's independence against the stubborn Italian imperialism and every ambitious and treacherous imperialism, is now eager to protect the safety of the Libyan people and their country and save the fraternal Libyan people from Marxist domination and the illusions of insane people.

GHALI TO LEAD DELEGATION TO ARAB LEAGUE MEETING

NC011048 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0953 GMT 1 Mar 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 1 March--MENA has learned that Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali will lead the Egyptian delegation to the emergency meeting of the Arab League Council, which will be held in Kuwait at the foreign ministers level on Sunday to discuss the current fighting between the YAR and the PDRY.

Dr Ghali is due to arrive in Cairo tomorrow or the day after from Washington, where he stayed behind for medical examination following the suspension of the Camp David negotiations.

The Arab League Council is holding an emergency meeting at the request of the YAR.

IRAQI, BANGLADESH PRESIDENTS BEGIN OFFICIAL TALKS IN BAGHDAD

JN281832 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Feb 79 JN

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 28 Feb--Official talks began here this evening between President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr and Bangladesh President Ziaur Rahman.

During the talks, which were held at the Republican Palace, the two sides reviewed bilateral relations and ways to promote them in the various fields. They also discussed Arab and international issues of joint interest.

IRAQI, LEBANESE PARTY DELEGATIONS MEET IN BAGHDAD

JN282131 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2025 GMT 28 Feb 79 JN

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 28 Feb--An Arab Socialist Ba'th Party delegation under Dr Munif ar-Razzaz, Ba'th Party assistant secretary general, and a delegation of the Lebanese Nationalist Movement under Walid Junblat, leader of the Progressive Socialist Party, have reviewed the latest developments in Lebanon.

During an enlarged meeting this evening, the two sides also discussed the means necessary to strengthen the Arab struggle, protect Lebanon's unity and Arabism, and confront the imperialist-Zionist schemes aimed at partitioning Lebanon.

The two sides stressed the need to strengthen and entrench the struggle of the Arab unionist movement, the basic nucleus of which is represented by the Syrian-Iraqi joint national action, with the aim of achieving comprehensive Arab unity.

4,000 COMMUNISTS SAID TO HAVE 'DISAPPEARED' SINCE 1 JAN

LD281535 Paris LE MONDE in French 23 Feb 79 p 4 LD

[Unattributed report: "Iraq--4,000 Communist Party Cadres and Sympathizers Appear To Have Been Either Arrested or Kidnaped"--names in parentheses as published]

[Text] According to information received in Paris from circles close to the Iraqi Communist Party, 1,913 party militants, cadres and sympathizers have "disappeared" since 1 January plus 2,125 in Kurdistan alone. Party leaders are very worried about them.

Furthermore, it would appear that 31 and not 7, as announced at the time (LE MONDE 27 May 1978 edition), communist soldiers [as published] and sympathizers were executed in May 1978. Dr (Kamal Salem) and (Mohamed Jawad Touma) were arrested in Basra in 10 December. According to the same sources, in Baghdad itself, several Iraqi Communist Party cadres and leaders were arrested in the second half of December. They were Central Committe member (Majid Abdul Ridha), university professors (Ghazi El Khataieb) and (Namer El Aini) and party official (Hazim Sallou).

KIN HUSAYN RECEIVES YAR INFORMATION MINISTER

JN272014 Amman Domestic Television Service in English 2000 GMT 27 Feb 79 JN

[Text] His majesty the king received this evening the North Yemeni minister of information, envoy of President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih of the Yemeni Arab Republic. The Yemeni envoy, Muhammad Salim al-Basindwa, handed his majesty a written message from President Salih and briefed him on the latest developments resulting from border clashes between the two Yemeni republics.

His majesty the king expressed extreme concern about those events and emphasized that he would do his best to help in putting an end to the fighting between the two countries. The king told the Yemeni envoy that bloodshed on Arab land should be stopped so that Arab solidarity might be maintained and Arab potentials preserved. The minister of information, 'Adnan Abu'Awdah, and the deputy commander in chief of the North Yemeni armed forces were present at the meeting.

Minister Departs for Kuwait

JN281218 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Feb 79 JN

[Text] YAR Information and Culture Minister Muhammad Salim al-Basindwa left Amman for Kuwait this morning at the end of a short visit to Jordan, during which he delivered a letter to King Husayn from YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih dealing with the recent developments on the YAR-PDRY border. The guest minister was seen off at the airport by Information Minister 'Abnan Abu'Awdah and by the YAR ambassador to Jordan.

IBRAHIM LEAVES FOR SAN'A', ADEN; HUSAYN CONTACTS IRAQ

JN281528 Amman JNA in Arabic 1455 GMT 28 Feb 79 JN

[Text] Amman, 28 February--Hasan Ibrahim, minister of state for foreign affairs, left Amman for San'a' this morning on a mission within the framework of the joint Arab efforts to put an end to the fighting currently taking place between the two parts of Yemen. During his tour, which will include Aden, Hasan Ibrahim will meet with senior officials in the two fraternal countries with the aim of becoming acquainted with the true situation and the reasons for the conflict. The tour also aims at aiding Jordanian efforts to those of the Iraq and Syrian envoys so as to remove the causes of the conflict, spare Arab blood and preserve Arab potentials and capabilities. The JNA correspondent has learned that yesterday evening King Husayn made contacts with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Saddam Husayn, Iraqi Revolution Command Council vice chairman, regarding the current bloody events between the YAR and the PDRY. The contacts are aimed at consulting on the best ways to help the two fraternal countries end their fighting.

PRIME MINISTER, PLO DELEGATION MEET IN AMMAN

JN281236 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Feb 79 JN

[Text] At his office this morning Prime Minister Mudar Badran received PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi and his accompanying delegation. During the meeting, they reviewed Jordanian-Palestinian relations in light of the recent Middle East developments. They also discussed the citizens' conditions in the occupied areas and coordination to support their steadfastness in the face of Israel's expansionist and colonialist challenges.

HUSAYN DISCUSSES ISSUES WITH PLO DELEGATION

JN281646 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 28 Feb 79 JN

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received at the Royal Hashemite Court this afternoon the PLO delegation which is made up of Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department; 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, PLO official spokesman; and Brig Gen 'Abd ar-Razzaq al-Yahya, director of the Political Department.

During this meeting, a general review was made of current developments in the Arab homeland, and a discussion was held on the various aspects of cooperation between Jordan and the PLO. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Mudar Badran; 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court; 'Amir Khammash, minister of court; and 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, minister of information and acting minister of state for foreign affairs.

POPULAR FORCES GROUPING CONDEMNS PRC ATTACK ON VIETNAM

JN271833 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1320 GMT 27 Feb 79 JN

[Text] Amman, 27 February--The General Secretariat of the Popular Forces Grouping in Jordan issued a statement today denouncing the PRC invasion of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. The statement demands the PRC's immediate withdrawal from Vietnamese territory. The statement says that the military invasion by the PRC against the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, a country which loves peace and freedom, and which is a friend of the Arab nation and a stubborn struggler against world imperialism, particularly U.S. imperialism, raises the anger and denunciation of all freedom, peace and progress-loving peoples.

The statement calls on all peoples and countries opposed to imperialism and aggression to support the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the struggle of its heroic people. The statement also calls for solving differences among countries by peaceful means.

ITALIAN FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER ARRIVES IN AMMAN 1 MAR

JN010939 Amman JNA in Arabic 0928 GMT 1 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Amman, 1 March--Italian Foreign Trade Minister Rinaldo Ossola arrived in Amman last night for a visit to Jordan to last several days.

Ossola said that he and officials of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce and the National Planning Council will discuss ways to strengthen the cooperative relations between Jordan and Italy. Ossola said that the Italian industrial and commercial sectors, both public and private, wish to participate in Jordanian development projects.

Ossola was met at the airport by the under secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, the under secretary of the Ministry of Information, and the Italian ambassador in Amman.

CABINET MEETS, DISCUSSES YEMEN CONFLICT

NC281528 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 28 Feb 79 NC

[Excerpts] At 1145, President Ilyas Sarkis presided over the weekly Cabinet session, which was attended by Prime Minister Salim al-Huss and the ministers. Minister Farid Rufayil, who is in Saudi Arabia on an official mission, was absent from the meeting.

Prior to the Cabinet meeting, President Sarkis presided over a working meeting attended by Prime Minister al-Huss and Minister for Expatriates and Foreign Affairs Fu'ad Butrus. Later the Minister for National Education Dr As'ad Rizq, and the dean of Lebanon University, Dr Butrus Dhib, joined the meeting. Arab Deterrent Forces Commander al-Khatib also joined the meeting, as did the governor of the south, Halim Fayyadh.

At 1230, Governor Fayyadh left the Presidential Palace and said: As a matter of fact, I attended the meeting in order to submit a report on the projects which we started implementing in the south in keeping with the Cabinet resolution and in accordance with the additional powers granted to the Governor. This was an occasion to review the projects which were carried out as well as the conditions of work in order to carry out projects in the south and give basic services to the citizens.

The Cabinet meeting ended at 1345. After the meeting the Cabinet Secretary General Dr 'Umar al-Musayki, gave the following official information:

The Cabinet discussed the general situation in the country and heard a report by the governor of south Lebanon on the achievements that were carried out in the governorate of south Lebanon since the Cabinet decided to grant additional powers to the governor of the south on 31 January 1979.

The Cabinet then heard a report by the prime minister who said that the first phase of his tour to a number of Arab countries will start on Saturday and that he will visit the UAE, Qatar, Bahrain and Kuwait.

The Cabinet decided on the delegation which will accompany the prime minister. The delegation will consist of Ambassadors Nadim Dimashqiyyah and Kisrawan Labaki. They will be joined by the Lebanese ambassadors to the countries visited.

The Cabinet then discussed the armed conflict between the PDRY and the YAR. The Cabinet heard the available information on the situation and took note of the two fraternal countries' positions.

As a result of these discussions, the Cabinet expressed deep anxiety over this crisis. It also stressed the need to tackle this crisis in a fraternal spirit within the framework of Arab unity. Therefore, the Cabinet appeals to officials in both fraternal countries:

1. To cease firing immediately; to respect each other's borders, and to stop aggression against these borders and any warlike actions, and not to facilitate such actions.

2. To respond to any efforts aimed at establishing an Arab committee which would gain the trust of both parties and which will be entrusted with the tasks of mediating or supervising the implementation of steps which might solve the crisis.

SECURITY SITUATION REPORTED 1 MARCH

NC010703 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 0615 GMT 1 Mar 79 NC

[Text] No clashes were reported during the night in the eastern and southern suburbs of Beirut, although the positions in the Chevrolet and Galerie Sim'an areas opened fire just before 2200 last night on Ash-Shiyah and 'Ayn ar-Rummanah. There were no casualties. Latest reports indicate that the security situation improved and that there is nothing to prevent traffic movement on the bridges. Last night, the Syrians and Palestinians set up an armed roadblock in Muhammad al-Hut Street preventing the entry of vehicles carrying vegetables from the western to the eastern sector of Beirut.

Reports from southern Lebanon indicate that An-Nabatiyah and outskirts were bombarded; a motion-picture theater was set on fire, and a place of business and the Zahrat Lubnan Hotel were damaged. Artillery shells fell on olive groves in the outskirts of 'Ayn Harthah in the eastern sector.

SARKIS RECEIVES PDRY COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER

NC010920 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 1 Mar 79 NC

[Text] Yesterday President Ilyas Sarkis received PDRY Communications Minister Muhammad 'Abdallah 'Ushaysh who conveyed to the president a message from the PDRY Presidential Council Chairman 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il. The meeting was attended by PDRY ambassador in Beirut, Muhammad 'Abd al-Qawi.

After the meeting, Minister 'Ushaysh said: I have conveyed a message from Presidential Council Chairman 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il to President Ilyas Sarkis. The message is connected with the latest developments in both parts of Yemen. We have felt great understanding of these developments by President Sarkis. We hope to overcome all difficulties confronting the two parts of Yemen. We appreciate Lebanon's firm stand regarding its contribution toward solving any problems of tension in the Arab countries.

FOREIGN MINISTRY RECEIVES SAUDI ARABIAN MEMORANDUM

NC281319 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 28 Feb 79 NC

[Text] Saudi Arabia today appealed for support for its position on the armed conflict between northern and southern Yemen.

The Saudi charge d'affaires in Lebanon, Abu Bakr Rafi', visited the Foreign Ministry and met with the Foreign Ministry's director of political affairs, Ambassador 'Abd ar-Rahman as-Sulh. The Saudi charge d'affaires conveyed a memorandum to Mr as-Sulh consisting of the statement issued by the Saudi Royal Court which calls on the Arab nation to unite in view of the present circumstances. The statement expresses deep apprehension and great interest in the armed conflict between the two Yemens and appeals to both sides to solve their differences in a fraternal spirit. The statement adds that what is happening between the two Yemens is harmful to the security of all the Arab countries. Saudi Arabia calls for an immediate cease-fire and for the withdrawal of the fighting forces to the international borders. The statement further calls on both sides to refrain from giving refuge to the rebels and to allow an Arab body to supervise the implementation of peace. The Saudi memorandum expresses hope that Lebanon will support Saudi Arabia's position.

SYRIAN-GREEK TALKS HELD, AGREEMENT SIGNED

JN281441 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 28 Feb 79 JN

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and Greek Prime Minister Konstandinos Karamanlis held a second session of talks at 1230 today in the Ad-Dimashqiyah Hall. The meeting was attended on the Syrian side by Prime Minister Muhammad 'Ali al-Halabi and 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and by Greek Foreign Affairs Minister Yeoryios Rallis and Greek Ambassador in Damascus Athanasios Petropoulos on the Greek side.

President Hafiz al-Asad and Konstandinos Karamanlis continued their review of the situation in the eastern Mediterranean area. They exchanged viewpoints on developments in the Middle East.

The Syrian side, headed by Prime Minister Muhammad 'Ali al-Halabi, and the Greek side headed by Konstandinos Karamanlis, held discussions at 1000 today. Participating in the talks on the Syrian side were: 'Abd al-Halim Khadam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Zuhayr Mashariqah, minister of education; Dr George Huraniyah, minister of state for planning affairs; Dr Salim Yasin, minister of transport; Dr Rafiq Juwayjati, director of the Western European Department in the Foreign Ministry; and 'Ali al-Madani, ambassador in the Foreign Ministry. The members of the delegation accompanying the Greek prime minister and the Greek ambassador in Damascus are participating in the talks on the Greek side.

At the session, a review was held on the political situation in the Middle East area. Ideas were exchanged on the reality of the economic relations existing between the two countries and means to strengthen and expand these relations, particularly since Syria and Greece have distinguished joint ties.

Agreement was reached on promoting trade and cooperation in the fields of education, technology, health and agriculture, as well as cooperation between the telecommunications establishments in the two countries.

It was also agreed to study an agreement regulating labor relations between Syria and Greece.

The SANA correspondent has learned that the Greek foreign trade minister will arrive in Damascus later today to study the draft agreements and take the necessary measures to implement them.

An agreement to transport goods and passengers between the two countries was signed at the end of the session. It was signed by Transport Minister Dr Salim Yasin for Syria while Greek Foreign Affairs Minister Yeoryios Rallis signed for Greece.

In a statement to SANA on this agreement, Transport Minister Dr Salim Yasin said: This agreement comes within the framework of relations between the two countries which have special and distinguished ties. He added that relations between Syria and Greece are old and strong. These relations are further developing, as expressed by the prime minister of the two countries at their meeting this morning.

The minister announced that the two countries had signed a maritime transport agreement in 1977. They are now signing the second agreement which provides for the transport of goods and passengers between Syria and Greece.

LIBYA

AL-QADHDHAFI REPLACED AS HEAD OF PEOPLE'S GENERAL CONGRESS

TA011213 Paris AFP in English 1210 GMT 1 Mar 79 TA

[Text] Paris, March 1 (AFP)--'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi replaced Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi today as head of Libya's People's General Congress, Libya's official news agency reported in a broadcast monitored here.

Mr al-'Ubaydi was "freely and democratically" elected secretary general of the congress in a unanimous vote at a special session, the agency said. Secretary (Minister) of Information Muhammad az-Zuwayy was elected deputy secretary general. Mr al-'Ubaydi was previously chairman of the People's Committee (Cabinet). Col al-Qadhdhafi announced last Dec 19 that he would give up leadership of the congress to devote himself to revolutionary action. That did not mean he was withdrawing "into my tent," he said then. The former ruling party, the Arab Socialist Union, was transformed into the People's General Congress in 1976.

AR-RA'Y: AL-QADHDHAFI CANCELS VISIT TO IRAN

JN010645 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 1 Mar 79 p 1 JN

[Text] Tehran, It has been learned here from well-informed sources that an expected visit to Iran by Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has been canceled due to differences over the disappearance of Imam Musa as-Sadr, leader of the Shi'ites in Lebanon. Imam Musa as-Sadr has not been seen for months, following a visit to Libya.

MOROCCO

KING HASSAN RECEIVES MAURITANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

ID281340 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 28 Feb 79 ID

[Text] His Majesty King Hassan II received in audience at the royal court this morning Mauritanian Foreign Minister Ahmed Ould Abdallah who arrived in Morocco yesterday. Present at the meeting were M'hamed Boucetta, the minister of state for foreign affairs and cooperation, and Mr Ahmed Reda Guedira, his majesty's adviser. Earlier, the Mauritanian minister had a meeting with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation M'hamed Boucetta. They reviewed bilateral relations and ways of strengthening them.

SUDAN

YAR ENVOYS DELIVER MESSAGE TO NUMAYRI, LEAVE FOR CAIRO

JN271213 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1030 GMT 27 Feb 79 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 27 February--President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri today received a message from his YAR counterpart 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. The message was conveyed to President Numayri when he received in audience this morning YAR Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Asnaj and Yahya Jaghman, personal representative of the YAR president. The YAR envoys then left for Cairo at around 1000.

TUNISIA

PRESIDENT APPEALS TO PDRY, YAR TO END FIGHTING

LD281022 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 28 Feb 79 LD

[Text] President Habib Bourguiba has sent an appeal to Lt Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the YAR, and to 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, President of the Presidium of the People's Supreme Council of the PDRY. Here is the text:

The painful events occurring on the borders between the two sister Yemeni republics are having the most severe effect on me because of the dangers and harmful results which these armed confrontations among brothers entail, not only for the two fighting sides but for the whole Arab nation which is still being faced by (?intransigence) and challenges. Whatever the reasons for the misunderstanding and dispute, I personally continue to believe that an honest and true dialog would ensure a solution to the problems, however great, and that an armed conflict only further complicates matters and results in hatred and devastation.

I therefore appeal to the brethren in both countries to work to halt immediately these confrontations in order to spare the shedding of Arab blood, and for all to resort to the recourse of dialog, commonsense and wisdom to solve the existing problems with a genuine fraternal spirit.

SENEGALESE STATE MINISTER ENDS VISIT, LEAVES FOR PARIS

LD242125 Tunis TAP in English 1412 GMT 24 Feb 79 LD

[Text] Tunis, Feb 24 (TAP)--Shortly before leaving Tunis Friday for Paris after a 3-day official visit in Tunisia, Senegalese Minister of State for Equipment Adrien Senghor said in a statement that his stay allowed him to see with certainty that Tunisia is a real partner for Senegal on the economic and political levels.

"Both countries, he said, are trying to find a fair and equitable [word indistinct] on in order to set up a genuinely African society, balanced and consistent with our political ideals". The joint communique published at the end of this visit stresses that both delegations agreed to look for the ways and means of carrying out on a short term the Tunisian-Senegalese air-agreement.

On the other hand, both countries' national shipping companies are consulting together with a view to search for the possibilities of creating a regular line between Senegal and Tunisia.

The communique reveals also that the talks turned on the cooperation in the fields of hydraulics and rural equipment. To this effect, both sides agreed to:

-Intensify the exchanges of information, documents and experiences in the field of hydraulics, on the level of surveys as well as on that of achievements and developments.

-Rationalize the working of hydraulic resources by a water-code.

-Hold periodical meetings between the officials and experts of both countries in that field.

WESTERN SAHARA

DEFENSE MINISTRY ISSUES COMMUNIQUE ON 21 FEB FIGHTING

LD262136 Algiers APS in French 1500 GMT 26 Feb 79 LD

[Summary] SDAR liberated territories 26 Feb--A communique of the Saharan Defense Ministry reports that the Houari Boumediene offensive continues successfully on the northern front. The Saharan People's Liberation Army [ALPS] won another victory on 21 February near El Farsia, precisely at Udei Teichchat about 50 km north of El Farsia, and inflicted heavy losses on the enemy. A strong enemy column escorted by tanks was attacked and one unit of it was totally destroyed. The fighting continued for more than 3 hours; 21 Moroccan soldiers were taken prisoner and the following equipment seized: 2 armored vehicles, 21 jeeps, 6 trucks, 8 guns--among them 2 105-mm and 7 106-mm recoilless guns--15 MAG and 50 cal machineguns, antitank rocket launchers, 82 FAL 7.62 mm caliber rifles, 43 submachineguns and automatic pistols, 3 tons of ammunition of various calibers and 5 transmitters. During the fighting more than 120 Moroccan soldiers of all ranks were killed and more than 100 wounded. Some 98 bodies were found after the battle.

During the 3 days before the battle, the ALPS shelled several enemy garrisons with heavy weapons, among them the garrisons of Guelta Zemmur and Tifariti. Several strongholds of the occupation forces were destroyed, and a dozen or so enemy soldiers killed and a similar number wounded.

POLISARIO THREATENS TO STEP UP ATTACKS ON MOROCCAN TROOPS

TA271205 Paris AFP in English 1157 GMT 27 Feb 79 TA

[Text] Algiers, Feb 27 (AFP)--The "defense minister" of the self-proclaimed Saharan Republic, Ibrahim Ghali, warned today that POLISARIO troops would no longer concentrate their attacks on small, isolated Moroccan units but take on strong troop concentrations.

In an interview published here, Mr Ghali said "the more numerous the adversary, the more heavy weapons they have and the more our business is there." He said POLISARIO was sweeping through south Morocco and had a particular interest in the south Moroccan regions of Tan-Tan, Zak and Meseled.

Mr Ghali also accused France of adopting a new strategy in pulling the "Moroccan and Mauritanian strings" from Paris and "using the language of peace to involve itself better in this conflict which was not its own." He added that POLISARIO's circle of friends was growing and that 88 countries had supported its cause. Morocco and Mauritania have partitioned the Western (formerly Spanish) Sahara.

(Meanwhile, in Paris today the Association of Friends of the Arab Saharan Democratic Republic revealed that it had asked French Foreign Minister Jean Francois-Poncet to establish official relations with the Saharan people.

(It had asked for the installation in France of a permanent delegation from POLISARIO).

BEGIN HOLDS NEWS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING CABINET MEETING

TA281103 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1032 GMT 28 Feb 79 TA

[Text] The news conference with Prime Minister Begin will begin in a moment. We are going over to our political correspondent Shalom Qital.

[Qital] The Cabinet meeting is over and the prime minister is here. He will hold a short news conference. He will first make a statement in Hebrew and will also answer questions. Mr Prime Minister, what has the Cabinet concluded in its special session?

[Begin] Well, the Cabinet has made decisions with regard to my talks with President Carter. I will act according to these decisions, and they naturally bind me. I want to emphasize that I am leaving for the United States tomorrow together with my colleagues in order to hold talks with President Carter and his advisers. I do not intend to meet in the United States with Dr Khalil if he is there during my visit. It is not because I do not like Dr Khalil. He is a very amiable man. I met him in Jerusalem during President as-Sadat's visit. It is true that from the point of view of status, anyone who knows the alphabet of law and legislature understands the difference between him and myself. According to the law in Israel, I am the head of the executive authority. The president is the head of state. The U.S. President is the head of state and the prime minister both in one. Therefore, the U.S. President is handling matters with me and not with anyone else.

In Egypt the head of state and the head of the executive authority is President as-Sadat, while the prime minister is simply a man appointed by President as-Sadat and President as-Sadat can dismiss him at any moment. He, this prime minister, has to fulfill the will of the president. Therefore, the difference in our status is absolutely clear.

However, we would not have considered this problem--this is a problem of prestige--if this had been useful for peace and for the State of Israel. We would have been able to say: Even if a blow was dealt to our prestige, by this he would gain additional prestige since we did a good deed. We did not agree to participate in what is called the summit meeting with Dr Khalil at Camp David, a meeting headed by President Carter, since we were convinced that in this situation, after the foreign minister gave his account of the discussions at Camp David, such a summit would not have promoted the cause of peace and would have brought about a most grave damage. I want to reconfirm today that there is serious and severe extremization in Egypt's position. We were given new proposals that are not compatible with the Camp David agreement and even contradict it. What is no less important, they nullify the meaning of the peace treaty. If we had accepted these Egyptian proposals, this treaty could not have been called a peace treaty any longer. I would have in fact turned into a war treaty, and for war no treaties are required. Cannons are needed for war.

Therefore, we could not accept these proposals at Camp David when the foreign minister took part in these discussions. I would not have accepted them either, of course. This meeting would have failed totally and would not have served the cause of peace at all, and we knew this in advance. Therefore, yesterday we made the decision I read to you.

This is why I am announcing in advance that I am leaving to hold talks with President Carter only, according to the invitation he extended to me in a telephone call yesterday night. I am not leaving in order to hold any meeting with the Egyptian prime minister. I will spend a few days in the United States.

Tomorrow, after arriving at Kennedy Airport, we will be met by President Carter's plane, which will carry us directly to Washington. It is possible that my first meeting with President Carter will be held tomorrow evening. Later we will also meet on Friday. I informed President Carter that I will not work on Saturday and an additional meeting, if it is needed or possible, will be held only on Saturday evening. Later I will leave for New York for a few days and will be in contact with the representatives of U.S. Jewry. I will surely also address the U.S. people via the communications media and explain to the U.S. people our position which, I believe and am confident, is a just one.

[Qital] Sir, Mr Prime Minister, you are talking of extremization in the Egyptian position. However, you are leaving for a meeting with President Carter and emphasize it is with President Carter alone. What about the U.S. position? What U.S. position is awaiting you there?

[Begin] This will become clear in the talks between President Carter and me. I must add that the U.S. delegation has supported certain Egyptian positions, to our great regret. This does not and will not change our position. Therefore, I think that the meeting between President Carter and me should and can be very useful from the point of view of Israel and the peace process.

[Elimelekh Ram] Sir, Mr Prime Minister, you have repeated today that you will not meet with Prime Minister Khalil. If President Carter, during your visit, invites President as-Sadat, will you meet with President as-Sadat?

[Begin] I do not have to answer hypothetical questions. However, I have met with President as-Sadat several times already. This follows the nature of the status I have spoken about. I have no reason to say I will refuse to see President as-Sadat.

[Unidentified correspondent] Sir, Mr Prime Minister, the impression given, especially after the defense minister's declaration today to one of the papers that there is a difference with regard to assessing the extremization occurring in the Egyptian position...

[Begin--interrupting] A difference between who and whom?

[Unidentified correspondent] Between the defense minister and the Cabinet for example. Could you, Sir, clarify the extremization occurring in the Egyptian position...

[Begin--interrupting him] The defense minister has firmly denied what was published in the paper. Since you are all journalists, you have enough experience with regard to the truth of reports appearing in the press sometimes. I am also a journalist and I also therefore know something about this.

[Unidentified correspondent] Could you clarify the extremization in the Egyptian position, regarding the nature of the extremization occuring in the Egyptian position?

[Begin] This should be first heard by President Carter.

[Unidentified correspondent] Sir, Mr Prime Minister, do you envisage that President Carter will try to exert pressures on Israel to accept the Egyptian position?

[Begin] Why should I assume so? However, I want to say in advance that if an attempt is made to exert pressure on us, we will reject it.

[Qital] Sir, Mr Prime Minister, yesterday the Cabinet's decision was made with a large majority. However, the fact cannot be ignored that the two ministers not supporting the Cabinet's decision were the foreign minister and defense minister, two ministers who took part in stages of the negotiations. How do you view the fact that the foreign minister and defense minister did not support the majority decision in the Cabinet?

[Begin--laughing] I see this as a simple fact. There is democracy and every minister votes according to his views. Those two colleagues and friends of mine thought that I should accept the invitation as it was extended to us. They voted for their proposal according to their views. The majority in the cabinet, 14 ministers, thought otherwise and voted according to their views. It is clear that if the majority in the cabinet makes a decision, it is the decision of the entire government and it also binds the minority that voted against it. Therefore, it is impossible to say that a decision was made by a majority--if a majority votes it means that the Cabinet has decided, and this decision is binding on everyone without exception, including the minority that voted against it.

[Elimelekh Ram] Sir, Mr Prime Minister, if you allow me, this is the second time that the proposal [Hatzala] of these two ministers--and, as Shalom Qital has emphasized, ministers who were among those conducting the negotiations with Egypt--find themselves in a minority position with regard to issues in the negotiations. This happened in November, on the matter of the target date [last two words in English], and this happened yesterday, too. How can this be explained: precisely the ministers who conduct the negotiations are not in the governmental consensus on this matter?

[Begin] If so, you should refer the question to them. However, what room is there for "exactly" here? [Begin says with a laugh] By the way, your statement that they usually vote against is not true. Today, for example, there was a general agreement regarding...

[Qital--interrupting] Was a vote held?

[Begin]...Consensus, a general agreement regarding all the decisions that were made. There was no majority or minority. What is there to wonder at here? Every man has his own mind and his own assessment. These two friends, the defense minister and the foreign minister, yesterday thought as they thought and voted accordingly, with all due respect to democracy in Israel, all due respect to democracy.

[Unidentified correspondent] To continue the same question, Sir, according to your assessment, will the foreign minister's position not prevent him from heading the negotiating delegation in the future?

[Begin] This is not the correct inference at all. When the foreign minister leaves, he will be the head of the delegation since he is the foreign minister and it is the foreign minister who is representing Israel in the negotiations. After me he is the chief representative of the State of Israel in every meeting with foreign elements.

[Unidentified correspondent] Sir, Mr Prime Minister, in your meeting with Carter, will you present new Israeli proposals just like the counterproposals Dayan presented at Camp David?

[Begin] We are thinking about it!

Further Details

TA281253 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 28 Feb 79 TA

[Report on and recorded excerpts from English-language portion of Prime Minister Begin's news conference held in Jerusalem after Cabinet session on 28 February]

[Excerpt] [Unidentified reporter] Mr Begin, you have said that the proposals raised at Camp David II in effect nullify the original Camp David accords. President Carter says they do not. Do you expect that President Carter will try to exert pressure on you at your next meeting, and if he does, what will be your reaction, Sir?

[Begin] I stand by my opinion. I do not think that President Carter will use pressure. I would like to say very clearly: If pressure is used against us, we shall reject it.

[David Essing] Does the prime minister think there is American support for what Begin calls a hardening of the Egyptian position?

[Begin] I have to say in candor that at Camp David when our foreign minister participated in the talks, regrettably, there was some support of the American delegation for Egyptian proposals which were totally unacceptable to Israel and are of this extreme character I described to you.

[Essing] Prime Minister Begin would not say how President as-Sadat has hardened his stand. Begin first wants to discuss this with President Carter. Begin says he is willing to meet with President as-Sadat if the Egyptian leader decides to also go to the United States. And how does Begin explain the new hardening of Egypt's stand?

[Begin] Perhaps the Baghdad conference influenced very much the advisers of President as-Sadat. Perhaps the developments between Syria and Iraq had their influence. There was a rift between Syria and Iraq for many, many years, between the two parts of the socialist-leftist Ba'th Party. Now, they come together and they are against President as-Sadat. President al-Asad made, as I heard from an American representative, a very extreme statement about President as-Sadat which I would not like to repeat, but it was a very hostile statement. Maybe, now, that is a reason why the Egyptians try to prove time and again that they are with all the Arab nations, etc, etc. It is not for me to judge.

What we want to achieve is real peace and a real peace treaty with Egypt which is not a separate peace treaty. We never suggested a separate peace treaty to Egypt. But, of course, we have to sign a peace treaty in accordance with the Camp David agreement of the 17th of September the last year, between Israel and Egypt, as a first step towards a comprehensive peace settlement.

And the peace treaty must be a real one, and therefore the issues which are outstanding are of the greatest significance. Either it will be a peace treaty or it will be a piece of paper. And we are not going to sign pieces of paper. A real peace treaty is not a piece of paper. I reject that cynical appreciation which I hear from time to time. It is a serious matter and a serious document, but that we should agree to write in the possibility of a breach of the treaty in the treaty itself would be absurd.

This is the reason why, now, this is the extreme attitude of the Egyptian delegation and therefore until now we did not reach an agreement. May I say, respectfully, that I do not agree with the statement made by President Carter yesterday that only very small, insignificant things exist between Egypt and Israel. With all due respect, in my opinion, great issues, relating first of all to our future and security--and we have to care for the security of our people--now divide the two countries.

[Announcer] Yet, Prime Minister Begin still hopes that his talks with President Carter will help pave the way to a peace treaty with Egypt.

BEGIN HOLDS NEWS CONFERENCE AT BEN-GURION AIRPORT

TA010551 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0520 GMT 1 Mar 79 TA

[From the Morning Newsreel--live]

[Text] [Dan Patir, the prime minister's press adviser] Gentlemen, I'd like to have your attention. The prime minister will make his statement in Hebrew and then in English. The prime minister:

[Begin] Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. I leave now for the United States for talks with President Carter. I repeat: for talks with President Carter and with no other element, with the belief and conviction that I represent a just issue. For the sake of peace we have made uncounted sacrifices and assumed risks. But there must be peace. A document to be signed by Israel must not be something of a nonpeace. The recent Egyptian proposals--and there are some that are being supported by the United States, and this has to be said explicitly, also with regret but candidly--would change the document into a document of nonpeace. It was reported, on what has been termed the well-known Article VI in the peace treaty, that there are people who say that what is referred to are legalisms. There is no foundation for such a claim. Article VI is the heart of the treaty. If interpretations are appended to it that change its contents, it is no longer a peace treaty, but as I said yesterday, the document would change into a war treaty and for war no treaties are required. Israel wants peace; it desires it more than any other nation. The situation in the Middle East is very grave. Flames of war are passing from one place to the other throughout the world. In these days Israel is the stable element, because its stability stems from its democracy. Neither is it a weak country, but it insists on its stand, since it is just, of making peace between us and Egypt, a peace not merely for us but also for our children and sons and for their sons to follow.

These are the things that I am going to say to President Carter. Hints are being heard about pressure and such things. I would like to say plainly: I am not leaving to be subjected to pressures. Israel has already withstood manifold tests, and I hope that with the blessings of all citizens of the state, no matter what their party affiliation and with God's help, I shall also withstand pressures, if they are exerted. I hope they will not be exerted, but I will have to explain the positions of Israel. Today this is the essence of my mission to the United States of America.

[Shalom Qital] Mr Prime Minister, what do you think of the fact that it is being hinted in the United States--even though it has been denied--that President Carter said that only 10 days are allocated to the negotiations, but hints are nevertheless rife alleging that time is running short, according to the United States. Does this not indicate pressure?

[Begin] No, I do not agree with this assessment. Not 10 days, I wouldn't even say 10 weeks. We have no time limitation. Peace is not a matter for a limited period. Sometimes peace is negotiated for years, which was customary with many nations, and one should not be impressed by ups and downs. We are not interested in procrastination. We want the peace to be achieved quickly, but it is simply inconceivable to talk in terms such as 10 days or 2 weeks and such.

[Question by unidentified correspondent, summarized by Qital] The question is whether the prime minister will present a new aspect to President Carter about Israel's position.

[Begin] There are Cabinet resolutions, and I will act according to them.

[Question by unidentified correspondent] Could you elaborate on them, sir?

[Begin] No.

[Qital] Now the prime minister is going to speak in English and I am returning the transmission to the studio.

MEMBERS OF DELEGATION TO WASHINGTON TALKS REPORTED

TA010833 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 1 Mar 79 TA

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin left for the United States a short time ago. He is accompanied by members of his office, the head of his office, Yehi'el Qadishay, Brig Gen Efrayim Poran, Dan Pattir and the Foreign Ministry's legal adviser Dr Me'ir Rosenne. He will be joined in the United States by our ambassadors to Washington and the United Nations. The prime minister will land in New York and then fly to Washington. He will meet President Carter this evening.

DAYAN ON U.S. INTENTIONS IN MIDDLE EAST, NEGOTIATIONS

TA281725 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 28 Feb 79 TA

[Text] U.S. President Jimmy Carter told Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan that in his opinion time is not on Israel's side and the negotiations should be concluded quickly. He told the foreign minister that he is allocating only 10 days for dealing with Mideast issues. If a settlement is not achieved, the United States will decide on a new policy in the region.

The foreign minister mentioned Carter's remarks in a report to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee. In Dayan's assessment, the Americans will decide on a new deployment in the Middle East, either with Israel or without it. The foreign minister believes that the United States would now be prepared to use military intervention wherever this may be required.

Our correspondent Tzvi Lidar has learned the following details of the foreign minister's report on the negotiations with Mustafa Khalil at Camp David.

The foreign minister reported that the only thing achieved in the deliberations was a new formulation of Article IV in the peace treaty providing for the possibility of revising the security arrangements in Sinai. According to the new formula, each party will be able to demand a revision, and the change will be implemented through mutual agreement within 3 months of the demand. This formula was approved by the Cabinet today.

As for the autonomy, Egypt continues to demand that it be established within 1 year in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza. However, if as a result of opposition from Jordan or from the Palestinians it is impossible to establish the autonomy in Judaea and Samaria, Egypt demands that it be established in the Gaza District within a year. It also demands that there be an Egyptian representation in Gaza.

Egypt says that whatever happens, the 5 interim years of the autonomy will begin with its establishment in the Gaza District, and at the end of that period the status of the territories, including Judaea and Samaria, will be determined.

As for the clause providing for the precedence of the treaty with Israel over all other Egyptian commitments, Cairo is now proposing that this clause be removed from the peace treaty.

At the Camp David talks, Mustafa Khalil said that Egypt is bound only by the agreement signed 5 months ago and it is prepared to implement it. However, Khalil pointed out that at the first Camp David conference the exchange of ambassadors was not discussed. Egypt is now proposing the establishment of consular relations between the two countries 1 month after the elections to the autonomy council in the Gaza District.

As for oil, Mustafa Khalil said that when all other deliberations are concluded and prior to the signing of the peace treaty, Egypt is prepared to conclude negotiations on this issue.

It is the foreign minister's belief that the word "peace" is viewed much more negatively in the Arab world than it was during As-Sadat's visit here. In his opinion, it is doubtful that the Egyptian president would visit Jerusalem today.

10 Days for Talks

TA010722 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 1 Mar 79 TA

[Text] This morning Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan said that he shares the feeling of time pressure in the negotiations, but he does not think matters should be dealt with in a limited period of time. However, in the wake of the incidents in Iran, he has a feeling of urgency. Therefore, he would like the Washington talks to pave the way to a successful culmination of the talks.

Talking with correspondents at Ben-Gurion Airport after the prime minister's departure, Mr Dayan said that matters standing between Israel and the United States should be clarified and thus bring about the end of the negotiations. On his stand at Tuesday's Cabinet meeting on the prime minister's meeting with the U.S. President and Egyptian Prime Minister Mustafa Khalil, Dayan said: Whatever I had to say I said in the Cabinet and now that the decision has been adopted, I agree with it. Our political correspondent reports that Dayan emphatically denied the allegations that he had told the Knesset Security and Foreign Affairs Committee that President Carter had allotted 10 days for the negotiations. Dayan said that immediately after hearing the report on the radio he asked the Foreign Ministry spokesman to deny it.

Denial of Dayan Statement

TA010748 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0610 GMT 1 Mar 79 TA

[From the Morning Newsreel]

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan referred to his briefing of the Knesset Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee yesterday when he was taking leave from the prime minister this morning. Over then to our political correspondent Yosi 'Abadi at Ben-Gurion airport.

['Abadi] Hello. In an interview with Israeli media, the foreign minister was asked about the statement about which he was quoted by members of the Knesset Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee, and which the White House spokesman denied. Here is his answer. [begin recording]

[Dayan] First of all, his denial is correct. That is to say, concerning the things he is denying, he is correct. But I did not wait until the State Department spokesman's denial. I listened last night to the news on Jerusalem radio at 1900. When I heard the report, as it were, of what I had reported to the Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee, I immediately requested the ministry spokesman to announce that everything in that report, allegations about what I had attributed to President Carter as having said, is not true.

[Elimelekh Ram] Sir, in view of the developments occurring since your return to Israel this week--the Cabinet decision, and the prime minister's departure for the United States this morning--don't you think that your recommendation to the prime minister to participate at the Khalil-Carter-Begin summit was unjustified?

[Dayan] What I had to say on this matter, including the reasons and assessments, I said in the Cabinet, and after the Cabinet decision was adopted, I accept it, but I don't wish to enter into the question of assessments of what might have been.

[Ram] What, in your view, can be expected from the prime minister's talks with President Carter this week or next week?

[Dayan] I can say what I wish, what I hope would occur. First a clarification of the issues between Israel and the United States and secondly, and to my mind this is now the most important, to reopen the opening for the continuation of negotiations, actually for a progress toward a conclusion of the peace negotiations between us and the Egyptians. I share the feeling of the urgency of time. I am not saying that the peace negotiations must be concluded within a set or limited time, but the urgency is there in view of what happened in Iran, in the whole of the Middle East. And I share this sense of urgency and thus I would very much wish that a way for a continuation be reopened, and I hope for successful conclusion of the negotiations between us and the Egyptians, after the clarifications that will be taking place--I hope--between us and the Americans. Thank you. [end recording]

REACTION TO CABINET'S SUMMIT DECISION, BEGIN TRIP REPORTED

Knesset Officials

TA281334 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 28 Feb 79 TA

[Text] The chairman of the Likud Knesset faction, Avraham Sharir, asked the prime minister to meet with the Likud faction before he leaves for Washington to report to it about the developments.

Mr Sharir told our correspondent Razi Barqay that from the beginning he believed that the government should ignore considerations of prestige and send Mr Begin to the talks in the United States.

MK Shamir from the Likud also wanted to hear a report from the prime minister. According to him the prime minister complied with a summons from the U.S. President.

The head of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee, Moshe Arens, says that Egypt's armament with U.S. weaponry is now being discussed in Washington and it is impossible that the United States equip Egypt with offensive arms which will be directed against us in due course.

And a reaction from the opposition, Mr Hayim Bar-Lev believes that in relations between countries one should transcend considerations of prestige. According to him the talks in Washington will be successfully concluded since all the parties are highly desirous of reaching the signing of a peace treaty as soon as possible.

Further Knesset Reaction

TA281649 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Feb 79 p 1 TA

[By HA'ARETZ correspondent for party affairs]

[Text] The chairman of the Alinement Knesset faction, MK Moshe Shahal, expressed joy at the fact that Prime Minister Begin has accepted the U.S. President's invitation to leave for Washington immediately. The opening left by the Cabinet's decision yesterday was thus well used.

Nevertheless, MK Shahal added that contrary to what was said in the Cabinet yesterday the Alinement does not have any new information that the Egyptian side has hardened its positions in the negotiations. The impression given, according to MK Shahal, is that there are contradictions between Foreign Minister Dayan's remarks and the statement made by the Cabinet.

He noted that in its discussion yesterday most of the Alinement Knesset faction rejected the Cabinet's decision that Mr Begin will not leave for the United States. He disclosed that a senior Labor Party personality hinted to the prime minister yesterday that given this situation a united front of the two big parties could be created to level criticism at the form of the first invitation sent to the prime minister. However, the hint was disregarded.

The head of the Likud Executive, MK Moshe Arens, said that Begin's personal invitation proves that yesterday's Cabinet decision was very wise. Instead of Begin's being invited to a meeting with Mustafa Khalil, he was invited for a personal meeting with Carter only.

Moshe Dayan

TA281630 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 28 Feb 79 p 1 TA

[By DAVAR correspondent A. Kinarti]

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan does not intend to draw any personal conclusions and resign in the wake of the Cabinet decision which he opposed. "This is not a matter of principle from which to draw conclusions, if my opinion was not accepted," Dayan told the DAVAR correspondent yesterday. He pointed out that "the Cabinet had the right to decide as it did."

In Dayan's opinion, Prime Minister Begin's trip to Washington was not a substantial issue. "We did not discuss the peace plan or the autonomy program, but whether the prime minister should go to the United States or not. The Cabinet members said no--so it is no."

Disappointment could be felt in Dayan's remarks regarding the decision because of his belief that his position was justified when he said: "Future history, not necessarily the distant one, will prove who was right: I or they. This will become clear eventually."

Replying to a question the foreign minister said that, at the moment, he did not know how the negotiations would develop in the wake of yesterday's Cabinet decision. "And perhaps nobody knows right now." Asked whether he would join the talks if it is decided to resume them, Dayan said: "I do not think I will go there in the near future. As far as I am concerned, my ministerial role is over."

'Ezer Weizman

TA281033 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 28 Feb 79 pp 1, 8 TA

[By YEDI'OT AHARONOT correspondent Eytan Haber]

[Text] Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman said to me this morning, reacting to Prime Minister Menahem Begin's acceptance of Carter's invitation to hold talks with him in Washington: "It is important that the prime minister go to the United States and it is important to end all the issues. Every hour counts."

Weizman was of the opinion that Begin should have accepted Carter's first invitation (to participate in a summit meeting in Washington with Egyptian Prime Minister Mustafa Khalil and without As-Sadat), which the Cabinet rejected yesterday. Weizman voted in the Cabinet for a positive reply to Carter's invitation and he was in a minority (together with Dayan, who also voted for it).

Commenting on yesterday's Cabinet decision Weizman said this morning: "The decision was superfluous and the prime minister should have gone without the accompaniment of the decision not to go. I said in the Cabinet meeting that Begin should go and, ultimately, he is going. He will not leave on Wednesday but, then, he will leave on Thursday. It does not matter whether in the end I was right. What matters is that the prime minister will go."

In a talk with the employees in his office and associates after the Cabinet meeting (and before Begin decided to accept Carter's second invitation), the defense minister dwelt on his position on the entire issue of the negotiations with Egypt.

Weizman said: "The government decided to hold the negotiations in Washington and not in the Sinai. I was of the opinion, and I still am, that it would have been better to hold direct contacts with Egypt, a direct approach, and not to run after the United States. However, since we introduced the United States into this business, we are in no position to say 'no' to President Carter now. We should go to meet him. Why not? The prime minister can confer with Atherton in Jerusalem and that is respectable. [paragraph continues]

And to sit with Carter in Washington is not respectable? We should not forget that we were the ones who brought the United States into the negotiations. We cannot fight with America, ask for oil, establish settlements and ask America to keep silent."

On the gap between the Israeli and Egyptian positions, Weizman said that the gap was not deep and, in his opinion, there was no polarization in the Egyptian position. "It is true that we did not persuade the Egyptians to change their positions. However, because of the situation we got ourselves into now, we cannot say 'no' outright. It is completely out of the question to do that."

"If the Arab world thinks this process is bad for the Arabs, why should it be bad for the Jews?" asked Weizman.

In the defense minister's opinion, time is working against Israel "and every hour counts." The entire Middle East is in a difficult situation because, among other things, of the events in Iran which do not benefit us. "We should arrive at a decision on whether to be passive or active in finding solutions. I suggest that we be active. It is possible to meet with Carter and talk to him from a position of might and strength. I do not feel weak when I meet with As-Sadat or Carter. We should not forget that although we are a minority in this region, we are strong and our future lies here. The might of the IDF supports us. We will place the 'facts' on the U.S. President's table. It is preferable to go to Washington and reach a crisis with Carter there and not to conduct the affair through telephone calls and letters and let the world interpret our 'no' as a hardening of our position."

The fact is, said the minister, that the United States can be persuaded. Defense Secretary Harold Brown visited Judaea and Samaria after we insisted on it (and despite his objection to the visit) and afterward he said that he could better understand the security problem in Judaea and Samaria. We should struggle over peace and not over prestige. Every hour counts.

Simcha Dinitz

TA282135 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1930 GMT 28 Feb 79 TA

[Jerusalem television political correspondent Elimelekh Ram interview with vice president of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and former Israeli Ambassador to the United States Simcha Dinitz in the television studio, broadcast within the framework of a "special news supplement" to the regular 1900 GMT television news--live]

[Text] [Question] Mr Dinitz, to what extent is President Carter's handling of the Middle Eastern issue influenced by the upcoming elections and his struggle to remain the Democratic Party candidate?

[Answer] I do not know whether or not his handling of the issue is being specially influenced by the next elections. However, undoubtedly the domestic picture concerning President Carter's standing in U.S. public opinion and a string of international events--not all of which have recently brought glory upon the United States--are inducing the United States to try to score a political achievement on the Middle Eastern front.

[Question] After he was elected president, Carter said--if I am not mistaken--that promises made in the course of the election campaign are not necessarily lived up to afterward. Can one expect something similar to this following the negotiations led by the United States?

[Answer] I think we have all learned over the years that promises made on the eve of elections do not necessarily turn into guidelines for implementing a policy--whether justly or unjustly. However, ...[interrupted]

[Question] And this is clearly highlighted in regard to President Carter?

[Answer] There are several outstanding examples of this also happening in the case at hand. However I think that the main problem which we are facing is how to change the discussion of the dialog between ourselves and the United States from one focusing on details and small, petty things, which I am not underestimating, into a basic strategic dialog. What has happened here? At Camp David, we signed an agreement which contains, I would say, an Israeli agreement to continue the autonomy process after the signing of the agreement with Egypt but which totally avoids an operative linkage between, on the one hand, our agreement with Egypt and, on the other hand, what might or might not happen in Judaea and Samaria. We shall find ourselves stuck with details and details of details.

[Question] And it is true that the United States can do this and that it then may well be inconvenient for us?

[Answer] Perhaps, but I think that at the moment nothing is more important than to have a serious, penetrating and substantive dialog with the United States. I do not at all regard the fact that the prime minister is now leaving for a bilateral talk with the United States as a great disadvantage because it seems to me that it is time that these basic things are discussed.

[Question] With your permission, I would like to return to the way in which President Carter handled the entire affair. The impression is that the invitation to the tripartite Carter-Khalil-Begin summit was, shall I say, clumsy. To what would you attribute this?

[Answer] First of all, I think that the United States made a mistake in the way it presented the invitation to the prime minister. I do not think that any prime minister of Israel should have accepted such an invitation.

[Question] What is the reason for this?

[Answer] Why did the United States do this?

[Question] Is this due to Carter's inability? His lack of experience?

[Answer] I cannot delve into the depths of his soul. Nevertheless, I would say first that the error stems from the fact that we created such a situation. Even if such a thought arose in the mind of the U S. President, it should have been nipped in the bud and should not have been allowed to create a situation in which the Israeli Government had to make difficult decisions. Since the choice was made, in my humble opinion the government had no way but to respond the way it did.

[Question] I have one more question. I would like you to give me a brief answer. Today, at the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee, the foreign minister said that the United States would insist that we sign the agreement within 10 days; otherwise, there may be a reassessment of U.S. Middle Eastern policy. In light of past experience, what in your opinion may such a reassessment be?

[Answer] In our minds, a reassessment is always connected with the memory of the severing of arms supplies.

[Question] Yes, but with this administration?

[Answer] In my opinion, with this administration a reassessment means the withdrawal of the United States from active participation in the political negotiation process.

MA'ARIV Reaction

TA281414 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 28 Feb 79 pp 1, 15 TA

[Article by Yosef Harif]

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Menahem Begin is leaving for Washington tomorrow to hold talks with President Carter, at the latter's request. He will use the personal talks to hold a profound discussion on the position adopted by the United States in the course of the negotiations and particularly in the last phase--at the Camp David II talks--which, in Israel's evaluation, has to a large extent influenced the extremization of the Egyptian position. It is assumed that Begin will say three "no's" to the latest Egyptian proposals raised at Camp David.

The prime minister's trip to Washington was agreed upon yesterday in a telephone call between the two men. Carter phoned Mr Begin shortly after the Cabinet's official announcement rejecting his invitation to come to Washington to hold talks with Egyptian Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil at Camp David was received in the United States.

A special Cabinet session was called this morning to endorse the prime minister's trip. In the brief phone call yesterday, President Carter said he was inviting Mr Begin for personal talks. He did not mention the possibility of inviting President as-Sadat or Prime Minister Khalil at a later stage (as he had announced in yesterday's press conference).

After today's Cabinet session in which the Cabinet will endorse the prime minister's trip to the United States, Mr Begin will hold a series of consultations with several ministers participating to consolidate the positions and proposals the prime minister will take to the meeting with President Carter.

The prime minister described the talks with President Carter as pleasant and agreed to the President's new proposal on the spot. The Cabinet meeting today will have to retrospectively endorse the prime minister's positive reply. It will hold a short discussion, mainly to go over Begin's statement to the effect that the government's decisions are the ones compelling Israel's negotiators.

It is thought in Israel that the prime minister will conduct difficult talks. If the United States does not alter its position, Mr Begin will be forced to say "no" to Carter as well.

President Carter's personal appeal to Mr Begin shortly after the vast majority of the Cabinet rejected his invitation with only two ministers ('Ezer Weizman and Moshe Dayan) voting for it, came to calm Israel's anger at the U.S. administration regarding the manner in which the prime minister was invited, which seemed like an ultimatum.

It is pointed out that the "compromises" proposed by the United States were not distant from the Egyptian conception. Under these circumstances, the prime minister explained yesterday at the Cabinet meeting that there is no point in his trip to the United States since it is evident that he will have to reply with an absolute negative.

Therefore, Mr Begin wants to use the personal talks with President Carter in order to make it clear to him that in those circumstances there is no chance to reach a peace agreement. On yesterday's Cabinet decision, Mr Begin said: This was the most difficult decision I have made in my life and this is stated by a man who has more than once adopted difficult decisions." Mr Begin considered the significance of rejecting the American invitation. However, he was convinced that only in this way it is possible to hold negotiations that might bring peace.

YEDI'OT AHARONOT COMMENTS ON DAYAN, WEIZMAN STANDS

TA281535 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 28 Feb 79 pp 1,6 TA

[Yesha'yahu Ben-Porat commentary: "The Cabinet Majority's Gain"]

[Excerpt] There is still justification for asking the question: How did the foreign and defense ministers find themselves, at least apparently, sailing together in the same boat? The fact that the two senior ministers were in the minority yesterday should not be ignored. In other countries, normally, no less than in Israel, such an event would lead to far-reaching conclusions, particularly in view of the fact that President Carter ultimately adopted the position of the majority. However, it would be an illusion to regard the vote of Weizman and Dayan to participate in a summit meeting as stemming from the same motives.

Yesterday, the defense minister reiterated the position he had already expressed on Sunday, that consenting to participate in a summit meeting did not mean Israel's being discredited. If the prime minister was not long ago prepared to deliberate at length with Assistant Secretary of State Roy Atherton, why should discussions with the Egyptian prime minister be denigratory? For 30 years Israel has longed for the opportunity to sit at the same table with representatives of the Egyptian Government, and isn't Mustafa Khalil an authorized Egyptian representative?

However, above all, the defense minister emphasized the content and the substance and not, as he has previously done, the form. In his opinion, the polarization of Egypt's positions is not so grave as to endanger the possibility of reaching the longed for agreement.

Anyway, Weizman claimed, we must go [to Washington] and place our positions on the negotiating table. Our objection will only weaken us and will ultimately bring us to the negotiating table by force.

On the other hand, the foreign minister made a fine distinction between substance and procedure. Substantially, he did not differ from tne majority yesterday. He also observed that a significant polarization had developed in the Egyptian position.

Cairo's attempt to make autonomy an integral part of the framework agreement with Egypt is definitely in opposition to the agreement reached at Camp David last September. Also, Egypt's opposition to changing ambassadors with Israel and its rejection of our demand to give priority to the agreement with Israel over its other agreements constitute a clear-cut polarization. Dayan strongly rejected the Egyptian demands and thus there was no substantial argument between him and the majority in the Cabinet. However there were differences of opinion on the question of procedure. While the majority objected to participating in a summit under such conditions, Dayan expressed the opinion that from a tactical point of view Israel should take part in order to avoid creating the impression that Israel is obstructing the continuation of the negotiations, and to clearly present Israel's position to Carter and Egypt. Also, Dayan thought it would not be appropriate to undermine the negotiations because of a matter of honor and prestige.

In view of Carter's invitation, yesterday's Cabinet controversy looks like water over the dam. In retrospect, the Cabinet decision was justified and was strengthened by Carter's step. However, the question remains whether 'Ezer Weizman will not be found to be justified in his assertion that, ultimately, we will be dragged into negotiations under uncomfortable conditions.

MA'ARIV: BEGIN-CARTER TALKS TO CLARIFY U.S. POSITION

TA281810 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 28 Feb 79 p 5 TA

[Moshe Zaq commentary: "When Carter Phones Begin"]

[Text] At yesterday's Cabinet session, Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan threatened that he would not remain in the Cabinet if the minister who accused him of "collusion with the Americans" concerning Menahem Begin's invitation to Camp David did not retract those accusations.

The minister in question retracted what he had said at Sunday's Cabinet session in the absence of Dayan. Subsequently, Dayan remained in the Cabinet and voted in favor of accepting Carter's invitation to the "summit of the gods" in opposition to the view of 14 Cabinet members, including the prime minister.

The prime minister was right in thinking that the same powers and directives that the foreign minister received upon going to Camp David were binding on himself as well, enabling him to say the same "no" to the new Egyptian proposals concerning Egyptian liaison officers in the Gaza Strip and the intensification of the linkage between the peace agreement and the autonomy in Judaea and Samaria without getting in return from the Egyptians an exchange of ambassadors and not merely diplomatic relations.

Actually, Moshe Dayan had the same powers that Egypt's Prime Minister Mustafa Khalil had: Both received binding directives from home. But while Mustafa Khalil required the endorsement of one man only, As-Sadat, Moshe Dayan needed the approval of the entire Cabinet.

The prime minister of Egypt made believe that he had all the powers necessary to conduct negotiations and that he was authorized to make concessions in the course of the talks. Actually, however, he was only authorized to pass on As-Sadat's instructions not to concede to Israel.

Israel's foreign minister was not altogether happy with the Cabinet forcing him to consult it at every stage of the negotiations. The Cabinet wanted to play its part in crucial political decisions. The foreign minister was uncomfortable with the task of being the "mailman" of the Cabinet's decisions, and he also voiced his discomfort over the limitations imposed upon him by the Cabinet. His statements before and during the talks made Carter believe that Dayan lacked the same powers of decision and influence that Egypt's prime minister seemed to have. This made Carter conclude that it would be worthwhile to invite Menahem Begin, who has the authority to make on-the-spot decisions.

One can understand As-Sadat's belief that the prime minister is omnipotent. If the "president" [As-Sadat] is not up to parliamentary and democratic procedures, that is excusable. But if President Carter also does not grasp the fact that the U.S. Government, which is appointed by an elected president, is not the same thing as an Israeli prime minister who is only one among equals...if President Carter does not grasp this difference, then he is doomed to stumble as he did when he sent the urgent invitation to the Begin-Khalil-Carter summit meeting.

Only after Israel's Cabinet rejected Carter's ultimatum that Begin replace Dayan in the talks with Khalil did the rapid sobering up take place: The President of the United States phones the prime minister of Israel and invites him to a private talk.

Two days before, Carter warned Begin that if he refused his "summit of the gods" proposal, the United States would withdraw its mediation between Israel and Egypt. This threat made things very difficult for Menahem Begin, who regarded yesterday's Cabinet decision as the most difficult one he had made during his term in office. Once the crucial decision was made, however, the Israeli Cabinet as well as the two dissenting ministers realized that Carter was also hard put to admit failure in his efforts for a Middle East settlement. He is not overly blessed with accomplishments, and even if he thought of threatening Israel at the "Khalil summit" by accusing Israel of a failure in the negotiations, he knew that fixing blame would not lessen the size of his own failure.

The "no" decided upon by the Cabinet yesterday gave birth to the prime minister's "yes" to the meeting with President Carter. That meeting is essential now in view of the increasing indications that in the course of the negotiations a precoordination of positions was secured between the United States and Egypt. The full coordination of positions pushed Israel into a corner where it was forced to say "yes" or "no" to the Egyptian proposal that was supported in advance by the United States.

Accordingly, the private talk between Begin and Carter is meant to make clear whether the United States is willing to refrain from coordination with Egypt, the "new Middle East policeman," and resume the task of mediation.

JERUSALEM: BEGIN TO HAVE MORE ROOM TO MANEUVER

TA281221 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 28 Feb 79 TA

[Excerpt] According to our political correspondent, in his talks in Washington with President Carter, the prime minister will act within the framework of the Cabinet decisions but will have greater freedom for maneuvering than enjoyed by Foreign Minister Dayan. However, there is no change in the government's basic positions. The Cabinet has approved Begin's trip and he will leave for Washington tomorrow morning.

REPORTAGE ON EVENTS, INCIDENTS OF 28 FEBRUARY

Khomeyni Address to Nation

LD281508 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Feb 79 LD

[Text] On the eve of his departure for the Holy City of Qom, leader of the Iranian Islamic revolution Imam Khomeyni today issued a message addressed to the Iranian nation:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: On this occasion, when I intend to take my humble presence to Qom, the shrine of a member of the prophet's family--may peace be upon them--I deem it necessary to express my thanks to the whole, great Iranian nation. Truly, it is thanks to the lofty efforts of this suffering nation which, with its reliance upon the inexhaustible power of the Almighty and confidence in the lord of the era [the last Shi'ite imam]--may the Almighty hasten his deliverance--that a victory over satanic forces was achieved. Similarly, my thanks and praises go to the esteemed citizens of Tehran for their extremely arduous efforts and the tumultuous sentiments they have displayed since my arrival, now that I am bidding them farewell in the physical sense, although spiritually and in my heart I will not be far away from them. I am indebted to all the esteemed sections and strata of the people. May the Almighty grant them independence, freedom, fortitude and health, and establish Islamic republican justice for them. It is necessary that I should mention a number of points:

1. The courageous nation of Iran must take note that, although the internal despotism has crumbled and the people have experienced freedom, the roots of the U.S., Soviet, British and Zionist colonialism and those of other plundering states have not yet been fully eradicated from this land and territory. Without the slightest pause or slackness, we must all unite to eliminate foreign influence. It must be noted that the shah put this country into the hands of foreigners to such an extent that it will take long years to fight its consequences. If we want to achieve true independence, we must try to eradicate all forms of U.S. influence, be it economic, military, political or cultural. I hope the Iranian nation will achieve this as soon as possible.

2. We all know that the secret behind the great victory that the nation has scored lies in the unity of expression of all strata, from the capital to the remotest parts of the country, and that its sole objective was to overthrow the satanic rule and to get rid of colonial associates and international colonialists, and set up an Islamic republic. We are now in greater need of maintaining this unity of expression and unity of objective. The great nation should beware of certain divisive elements that, by means of deceitful slogans, want to pave the way for the return of foreigners to our Islamic country and to restore the same old repression and looting in another form. By isolating them and refraining from participating in their gatherings, and by means of Islamic logic, the great nation will neutralize their harmful propaganda.

Everyone knows that this victory has stemmed from the might of Islam and that it was the Muslim who achieved it by giving his noble blood, but opportunists want to exploit it without doing anything positive and to make a place for themselves by means of making deceitful attacks and using weapons. The Iranian nation must--with awareness--stop these people. While everyone can enjoy freedom of expression, freedom of the pen and freedom of opinion, the people will never allow conspiracy.

3. Factory workers and other workers, as well as office employees and the deprived strata of society, should know that Islam has been on their side since its inception and that no injustice will be done to them in the rule of Islamic justice. Those who go among them with foreign instructions, at foreign behests or in the interests of foreigners, and who try to separate them from Islam by spreading deceitful lies, are the very same people some of whose leaders used to be in the service of the Mohammad Reza Pahlavi palace. All of them are wittingly or unwittingly serving foreigners. These trouble-makers should not be allowed into the ranks or the factories of the workers, and their gatherings should be avoided.

I have made emphatic recommendations to the government--which will be carried out--regarding water, electricity, and certain other things being free of charge for the moment for the low-income sections of society that have suffered deprivations as a result of the devastating discriminations exercised by the shahanshah regime--deprivations which, God willing, will be eliminated once Islamic rule has been established.

4. The army, police and gendarmerie are now in the service of Islam and the nation. The nation should support them, and do nothing that might discourage them or hurt their feelings. The security forces should know that after the purge of corrupt elements all of them will enjoy respect and welfare under the rule of justice and Islam. We realize that the defeat of the enemy was due to some sections of the armed forces and other government agents joining the nation. You should not feel defeated, rather, you should feel victorious, for you are of the nation and share its victory. We respect you and regard you as our brothers.

I emphatically warn the Iranian nation that the government must have a strong national army with a mighty morale, so that the government will have the power to safeguard the country. The honorable nation should exert an effort to boost the morale of the army and officers, and esteemed preachers and public speakers should also exert an effort in this regard.

Attacks on security forces' barracks throughout the country must be prevented. Today, an attack on a barracks will be tantamount to opposing the Islamic revolution. This should be avoided. It is necessary for Islamic revolution committees in the provincial cities to strongly support the commanders nominated by the General Staff of the National Islamic Army. They should also support other heads of security forces appointed by government authorities.

5. Islamic revolution committees in all provincial cities are dutybound--as soon as government control has been established in the cities--to hand over the operations of the committees to government forces and to refrain from interfering in government affairs. I must thank all the committees for their efforts in this period of revolution. It was you who sorted out the chaos through your endeavors.

6. I command all committee members and prison wardens to treat prisoners, whoever they may be, in a humanitarian and Islamic manner. They should refrain from hurting them, restricting them, treating them harshly or using abusive language against them, as such things are forbidden and denounced in Islam and under the rule of Islamic justice. They should allow the families of prisoners regular visits on specific days in accordance with regulations.

7. I have often said, and I repeat again, that no one has the right to attack people's homes or enter their homes. If an offender is known to be in a house, he should be watched in case he tries to escape, and the matter should be reported to the authorities so that he can be arrested in accordance with the law. Those interested in the movement should refrain from the above-mentioned actions. The people must act on the basis of religious norms.

8. The prolonged duration of strikes has resulted in certain crises. This necessitates that the people, in the interest of helping the needy section of society, should refrain from profiteering in the sale of public necessities, and that they sell public necessities at lower prices. This is a humanitarian and Islamic act which I expect everyone to observe. The Almighty will grant them blessings and plenty for this humanitarian act.

9. I have often recommended that the learned ulema, the esteemed congregational imams, the distinguished preachers and other servants of the pure Shari'a should be looked after. The great nation should realize that if the status of this group, which is the guardian of the Koran and Islam, be undermined--may the Almighty forbid such a thing--the plundering foreigners will achieve their aspirations and the grip on affairs will be lost. It was the enlightened vision of this esteemed group that aroused the nation with an Islamic spirit. The service rendered by this group should not be forgotten. Even now, it is thanks to the help of this group that the situation throughout the country is moving toward tranquility.

I recommend that there should be no transgressions, even against those who have insulted me. I call upon the spiritual community to cooperate with their brothers to further the foundations of the struggle and to treat them kindly. I have forgiven all those who have insulted me or spoken behind my back, and I call upon the Almighty to forgive everyone. I request that the congregational imams, who [words indistinct] to invite them back to the mosques and to hold them in respect. Of course, the reckoning of those who are known to have been in the service of the apparatus of injustice is something different.

10. In the press, which presents itself as being in the service of the revolution and as going along the nation's path since the Islamic revolution, articles and reports have been published which run counter to the course of the Islamic revolution. This has created discontent and distress in the nation. Frequent appeals are made to me to do something about the matter. I am sorry about the situation. I advise them and all the publicity media that it is due to the supreme self-sacrifice of the nation which, with its reliance on Islam and its strength of faith in the Almighty, liberated you from the 50-year-old enslavement and misery. Now it is not fair to engage in spreading poison against the wishes of the nation that has suffered, and against the Islamic revolution--something which would only be in the interest of foreigners, plunderers and their servants. I repeat my advice and believe that it would be in the interest of the press not to be influenced by the Left or the Right, not by the East or the West, and to place itself in the course of the Islamic revolution.

You should know better than anybody else that the nation has risen to wipe the dust of colonial culture from its edifice. We should nip colonial ideologies in the bud, whatever form and shape they may appear in, and not take away from the people the faith that has brought superpowers to their knees. I hope you will heed the advice of this long-suffering man.

I give this advice to the young ones and the section of the people that, at this crucial moment, are creating division. I fear that this divisiveness might prove to be against the nation's interest, against the nation that has suffered, those creating division themselves. I fear the days of repression and enslavement. I regret these tendencies toward the East or toward the West.

My children, return to the embrace of Islam and benefit from its rich culture. Do not be deceived by those who have no objective other than to suck the blood of deprived nations. Do not be deflected from the course of the Islamic revolution, at this is in your interest and in your nation's interest.

11. The Almighty willing, there will shortly be a referendum on the form of the state. It is necessary to point out that I will cast my vote for an Islamic republic. What the noble Iranian nation has been supporting with its cries throughout the country has been this very Islamic republic--not one word more and not one word less.

I expect the noble nation to vote for an Islamic republic because this is the only path of the Islamic revolution. Those who are against it are free to express their opposition. The learned ulema in provincial cities, villages and hamlets and the nation itself are dutybound not to allow anyone to deprive anyone else of his freedom and to insure that everyone can vote freely.

12. The position of criminals of the corrupt regime should be settled as soon as possible. They should be tried in open, extraordinary, revolutionary people's courts, and be punished, so that our suffering people can learn about their fate and be shown the way in which those who hurt and oppressed them during the dark period of despotism receive their just deserts.

13. All government offices, from the prime minister's office down to the most minor ones, should refrain from engaging in the love of luxury, in waste and in bureaucracy, and should handle people's jobs expeditiously. Of course, the noble people know that the ministries and government offices in an Islamic republic must be changed from their roots to pull them out of their monarchical, Western form and to give them a humane and Islamic shape.

14. I humbly and sincerely thank all those who, on my arrival, expressed their kindness through telegrams or letters, and apologize for not having been able to answer them owing to the large number of telegrams and letters, the soul-destroying heavy schedule, shortage of time and lack of opportunity. I am in the service of everyone and beg forgiveness from everyone. May the Almighty grant Islam and the Islamic nation greatness and might. May peace and God's blessings and mercy be upon you.

[Signed] Ruhollah Musavi Khomeyni.

Regulations in Qom

LD281036 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 28 Feb 79 LD

[Summary] The reception committee for Imam Khomeyni's arrival in Qom issued an announcement on regulations to be observed on Khomeyni's arrival, asking all welcomers not to bring any vehicle to the city center on Thursday. The announcement says that traffic wardens will be on duty in the city. No vehicle should be parked on Imam Khomeyni's route and welcomers are asked to keep the route clear.

Iran Air Offices Closed

LD281044 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0930 GMT 28 Feb 79 LD

[Text] The national Iranian airlines, after a review of its organization and flights, for economy reasons has cancelled a number of flights and decided to close some of its offices abroad, most of which had no commercial advantage and were merely established to serve the diplomatic and ceremonial interests of the previous regime. At the initial stage of this review, the offices in Singapore, Manila, Bangkok, Rawalpindi, Muscat, Sharjah, Chicago and San Francisco have been closed.

New Fars Governor General

LD281046 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0730 GMT 28 Feb 79 LD

[Text] Interior Minister Ahmad Sadr Haj Seyyed-Javadi has appointed Mr Nosratollah Amini as the governor general of Fars Province.

Order to Army Commanders

LD281252 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Feb 79 LD

[Text] The following order was issued today by the chief of General Staff of the Iranian National Islamic Army and addressed to all its related organizations: In the name of the Almighty, those units for which new commanders have been appointed and sent out for duty are hereby informed that they should complete the necessary procedure for the occupation of their posts without delay. After completing the transfer procedure, the issuance of salary receipts and other necessary measures, the former commanders who are (?attached) to their relevant forces should report without delay to the staff commander of their respective forces.

Factory Workers Deny New Strikes

LD281556 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Feb 79 LD

[Text] The workers of the machine-tool manufacturing factory of Tabriz issued an announcement today, the text of which is as follows: The workers of the machine-tool manufacturing factory of Tabriz have consistently shown our support for Islam through the issuance of statements and active participation in marches and worker strikes. We strongly deny and reject all rumors by opportunist groups about new strikes by the workers of the Tabriz machine-tool factory. We would like to point out that on the order of Imam Khomeyni regarding the ending of strikes, the workers of the Tabriz machine-tool factory resumed work on 17 February and have continued to work ever since.

NIOC Director on Oil Revenues

LD281232 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Feb 79 LD

[Text] Mr Hasan Nazih, managing director of the NIOC, made the following announcement at a meeting of NIOC workers at midday today:

From now on, oil revenues will be spent on revitalizing agriculture and investing in the basic industries in the country. All the noble workers of this company who have been expelled because of their honesty in the past will replace corrupt individuals.

The NIOC managing director emphasized that with the amendment of the NIOC constitution, a new organization will be formed. Referring to the past misappropriation of oil revenues by a number of corrupt officials, he pointed out that the time for signing agreements behind closed doors is now past. Mr Nazih also said that in future, the country's economy will not rely solely on oil, but will also rely on agriculture and industry. The NIOC managing director said: The first shipload of Iranian oil will be exported on 5 March to coincide with the anniversary of the death of Dr Mohammed Mossadeq. The companies that have been imposed upon us would do better to withdraw otherwise they will be made to withdraw with help from you, the company workers.

Radar Base in Kalarabad

LD281326 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Feb 79 LD

[Text] The revolution committee fighters of Kalarabad have discovered a radar communications base in the middle of the city's forest. This forest, which extends over an area of 30 hectares, was described by agents of the previous regime as patrol post No 555 of the forest and natural resources guard, and as a test-firing area, entry to which was banned. Following the announcement of this news by the Islamic Revolution Committee of Kalarabad, our reporter went to see this unit with a member of the Revolution Committee, and reported the following about it:

This base, which is set up in the middle of a forest, is surrounded by pine trees. Its buildings and [word indistinct] have been painted green and it has two huge communications pylons and three buildings. The buildings and communications pylons are surrounded by insulated power lines. There are electronic units placed in two other buildings which served, seemingly, as detention camps.

According to the Revolution Committee member who is a resident of Kalarabad, there were units installed in all parts of the forest which detected entry by individuals. Unfortunately, these buildings and electronic and radar units--which, it is said, were a U.S. observation base--have been damaged by agents of the former regime, or, according to observers, have been damaged by the people and the units put out of action.

Announcement in Masjed Soleyman

DO281725 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1550 GMT 28 Feb 79 DO

[Announcement from the Operations Staff of Imam Khomeyni in Masjed Soleyman]

[Text] [Passage indistinct] The Islamic Revolution Committee, the Imam Khomeyni Operations Staff in Masjed Soleyman is currently active protecting law and order and purifying antirevolutionary elements. However, a group of opportunists have taken advantage of this situation and they have taken over public lands. They have also begun to build homes. They are hereby notified that they must immediately cease all construction, and they must not sell land that has been occupied. No doubt at the appropriate time the revolutionary government will investigate the subject of land and landless persons in this city, and action will then be taken. Then the opportunists will receive their legal punishment.

[Signed] Operations Staff of Imam Khomeyni in Masjed Soleyman.

SAVAK Operative in Masjed Soleyman

DO281730 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1604 GMT 28 Feb 79 DO

[Text] This is Ahvaz, the voice of the Iranian Islamic revolution. Please listen to an announcement concerning the activities of the Revolutionary Committee of Imam Khomeyni in Masjed Soleyman: One of the operatives of SAVAK who fled from Mashhad and went into hiding in Masjed Soleyman has been arrested by the fighters and transferred to the imam's committee in Tehran.

[Signed] Operations Staff of Imam Khomeyni in Masjed Soleyman.

Shah's Extradition Denied

LD281745 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Feb 79 LD

[Text] Karim Sanjabi, the Iranian minister of foreign affairs, has said that Iran will continue with a fundamental change in its relations with the Arab countries, particularly with the Persian Gulf countries, in the near future. In an interview published in the Kuwaiti papers AL-WATAN and AS-SIYASAH, Sanjabi also said that the Iranian revolution will adopt measures which could strengthen this country's fraternal Islamic relations with the Arab countries. The minister denied the rumor that the Iranian Government has asked Morocco for the extradition of the former shah.

Situation in Tabriz

LD281922 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Feb 79 LD

[Text] The operational committee of fighter base No 2 of the Imam Khomeyni revolution in Tabriz announced that last night firing by counterrevolutionary agents took place in several parts of Tabriz, and the revolution sentinels and fighters immediately answered. During these events a group of counterrevolutionary agents were arrested by revolution sentinels and were handed over to the Imam Khomeyni central committee in Tabriz, and put in prison. The city of Tabriz is at present completely calm, and all the various parts of the city are being guarded by the revolution sentinels. The Imam Khomeyni's committees, too, are attending to the business of people coming to them for help.

Ilam Ayatollah on Fighting

LD281924 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Feb 79 LD

[Excerpt] In an exclusive interview with the PARS correspondent in Ilam at midday today, the Ayatollah Haj Sheykh Mohammad Taqi Morvarid denied rumors connected with armed clashes at Ilam, saying that a feverish plot by counterrevolutionary elements today resulted in disseminating baseless rumors. These rumors, which are utterly baseless, speak of armed clashes in Ilam's border regions, and these rumors today worried the people, so much so that the people, by repeatedly inquiring in person and by telephone, have expressed their anxieties.

Economy Ministry Posts Abolished

LD281905 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Feb 79 LD

[Excerpt] A total of 237 organizational posts, including those of under secretary, economic deputies, directors general and lower organizational echelons in the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance have been abolished. The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance announced that in carrying out the aims of the revolution government to reduce the weight of bureaucracy in the country, and to realize the government's policy in saving on administrative expenditures and a better utilization of manpower, a plan for administrative trimming of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance, both within and outside the country, is under consideration. Its first phase has now been put into effect.

Radio, Television Personnel Fired

LD281708 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Feb 79 LD

[Text] A group of former directors and responsible officials of the National Iranian Radio and Television Organization [NIRTO] have been dismissed from the organization. This decision was made by Sadeq Qotbzadeh, the new man in charge of NIRTO. The number of those dismissed is 50.

Prime Ministry on SAVAK Meeting

LD281710 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Feb 79 LD

[Prime Ministry statement]

[Text] Repeated telephone calls have been made to the Prime Ministry office enquiring about the meeting of SAVAK staff and employees in order to investigate their position. The Prime Ministry hereby wishes to inform those concerned that the date and venue of the meeting will soon be announced and, therefore, the meeting announced for tomorrow has no basis in truth and there will be no such meeting.

Deputy Minister of Sciences

LD281912 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Feb 79 LD

[Text] Dr 'Ali Shari'at-Madari, the minister of sciences, culture and art, today attended a meeting of ministry workers. After a speech about Islamic culture and a true appreciation of culture, he introduced Dr Parviz Varjavand as his deputy.

BAZARGAN COMMENTS ON DIVISION OF AUTHORITY IN COUNTRY

LD281637 Paris LE MONDE in French 28 Feb 79 pp 1, 4 LD

[Paul Balta interview with Iranian Prime Minister Mehdi Bazargan in Tehran: "The Revolution Must Be Channeled Without Cooperating With the Marxists"--date not specified]

[Text] Tehran--Overwhelmed with work, exhausted and faced with an enormous task which younger men would find too much, Dr Mehdi Bazargan received us in the downtown apartment in which he has ceased to live because, after he was made prime minister, he had to "flee from journalists and troublesome people who telephoned at all times of the day and night." "However," he added, "I take refuge in my own apartment to hide for a few hours now and again, to work or to meet people in peace."

The revolution has obviously gone too quickly and has been carried away, especially in its final phase, catching the government team unawares and not giving them time to prepare a program. "I thought we should progress slowly, carefully but surely," he confided. "The people have become accustomed to the rapid pace of events and want the revolution to be perfect and completed immediately. Now, before even undertaking structural reforms, the country must be put back on its feet and that is not easy after 5 months of strikes."

The prime minister did not hide the fact that many sectors are still at a standstill. In the administration alone chiefs have to be appointed for all sectors and at all levels. "The former chiefs have fled or gone into hiding; some of those who remained have been expelled by their subordinates and others are not 'reliable.' Many officials have to be found and that is not easy," he said. However, the extreme leftwing movements have suggested elections by the "grassroots" which have learned in the struggle which chiefs are honest and competent and capable of taking over for a while. Mr Bazargan vehemently rejects that view: "No regime proceeds in that way, be it capitalist or communist. How can the grassroots elect the chief who will then lead them? I have asked the grassroots to make suggestions, but it is up to the authorities to choose and install the chiefs."

"The same applies to the army. It is ailing and has lost its self-confidence. It must certainly be purged and reorganized, but the election of military chiefs by revolutionary committees would likely finish it off altogether."

The prime minister stressed that he is anxious to prevent the Tudeh (communist party) and the Marxists from infiltrating the state machinery because, according to him, they would hinder administration. "I distrust them because at the head of the National Iranian Oil Company, the water company, the faculty or in the National Front, I have always come up against them like a brick wall. There is no way of cooperating with them. They always betray you. The Tudeh Party betrayed Mossadeq. When he was overthrown its leaders admitted that and said they regretted it. It was too late."

[Question] But the Feda'i-ye now say that they are not dependent on foreign countries and the Mujahidin are Muslims?

[Answer] It makes no difference. They say they want union and that they are with Khomeyni but they contradict him on everything. The extremists are pushing us to move very quickly, but I still say patience, patience, patience.

[Question] Is that not why you are accused of being a reformist government in a revolutionary situation?

[Answer] To those who maintain that, I would tell this parable: We are like soil which has been without water; suddenly it rains too heavily and causes a flood which would be worse than the drought if a dam were not built. I do not say the revolution should be stopped. I say it must be channeled. We want to destroy the old structures in all fields--political, economic, cultural, legal and so forth, but we want to do so in a positive and constructive way.

Mr Bazargan emphasized that he has created positions within his cabinet which previously did not exist--a ministry for revolutionary affairs, another in charge of the transition of power and a third entrusted with the task of formulating revolutionary projects (LE MONDE 20 February). However, the last-mentioned appointment was given to Mr Sahabi who is almost 80 years old. At the risk of creating disappointment, the prime minister, who is honest, strict and sincere, seems to be a good majority manager, while the minority extreme left is skillfully using all the difficulties inherent in the situation to put forward in opposition to him a more exciting political project. The prime minister admits that there are several decisionmaking centers, a state of affairs which does not make his task any easier. "I have no power over the (Khomeyni) committee," he stated. "I heard on the radio about the first four and the other executions." This is obviously a difficult situation for a prime minister to be in.

He philosophically explained what happened: "At the offensive stage, and in order to destroy the dynasty, it was only natural that, considering the circumstances, various groups should have taken various initiatives. The regime's downfall took place only some 10 days ago, and these groups have continued along the same path, overlooking the fact that the building of a new regime demands a minimum of coordination."

To give the government more room to maneuver, Ayatollah Khomeyni decided to go back to the holy city of Qom, taking with him many aides and mullahs whom he cannot easily dismiss because of the role they played during the struggle against the dynasty. Asked about Ayatollah Talaqani's attitude, Mr Bazargan explained that, despite any statement to the contrary, the ayatollah is still, as far as he knows, a member of the Revolutionary Council. He indicated, however, that Talaqani has now adopted a rather aloof attitude.

He also remarked that, without consulting the administration, the committee has announced that the referendum will take place on Nawruz (the Iranian new year, which falls 21 March), whereas he himself had made it known that he would need 2 months.

Without letting himself be upset by the committee's initiatives, the prime minister told us: "The referendum is promised for Nawruz. I doubt that we can manage to hold it in less than 1 month's time. We have only appointed 5 provincial governors out of some 13, the voting slips must be printed, the scrutineers must be found and we must finish drafting the draft constitution...."

Proper Trials

Bazargan intends to go ahead with his plan to invite international observers and he explains that after consultation the question asked will be: "Are you in favor of the Islamic republic?"

He pointed out that the constitution is being written by a group of jurists and ideologists which includes practically no religious leaders. "We have removed them from everything concerned with the executive and the building phase," he said. "For the time being they are confined to propaganda and the law and order department." As far as the status of religious minorities is concerned, he admitted that he does not know what the current plan stipulates, but he explained that he intends to ask the interested parties to make their wishes known. According to him, the state will be centralized but will grant more freedom and authority to the different races.

With regard to the troubles in Kordestan, Bazargan told us: "There as elsewhere people want everything to be settled immediately, when it takes time to find a good solution to problems." He believes that several foreign powers are "plotting" in this affair. To deal with the situation, the government has appointed new governors at Sanandaj and Orumiyeh (formerly Rezaieh), strengthened the garrisons and delegated emissaries to the area with the task of obtaining information and explaining government policy.

Bazargan, worried about Iran's democratic image, revealed that the old-regime personalities held by the Khomeyni committee have been transferred to (Djamchidieh) Prison and to the former committee, and that they will be given public trials. Asked where Mr Bakhtiar is, Bazargan replied: "I do not know." He added: "It has been said that I hid him. This is not true." His sense of honor and hospitality made him add: "If he had asked me I would have received him. But he did not do so and I do not know what has become of him."

In the economic field Bazargan stressed that the main priority is to get things moving again. "So far we have not made any new decisions," he said, "because we have not had the time." However, he believes that the banking system will be radically reorganized and that private property will not be "sacred" although it will nevertheless not be abolished.

REFERENDUM ON GOVERNMENT TO BE HELD 30 MARCH

JN281729 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1715 GMT 28 Feb 79 JN

[Text] Tehran, 28 February--It was reported here today that the referendum on deciding the type of future regime in Iran will be held on 30 March, a Friday. ETTELA'AT newspaper said that all Iranian citizens who are 16 years old and above, including armed forces personnel, religious minorities and women, will take part in the referendum. The ballot includes the responses "yes" and "no" for the question: Do you agree to changing the previous regime into an Islamic republic?

'COMMUNIST PARTY' URGES MEMBERS TO VOTE FOR ISLAMIC REPUBLIC

TA281440 Paris AFP in English 1420 GMT 28 Feb 79 TA

[Text] Tehran, Feb 28 (AFP)--The Marxist-Leninist "Iranian Communist Party" announced here today that it had called on its members to vote for the establishment of an Islamic republic in a forthcoming referendum. The decision to support an Islamic government, announced by party Secretary General Hamid Azaryun, was made by the party's Central Committee.

"We have called on all our cells to support the formation of an Islamic republic under the direction of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni," Mr. Azaryun said today. He also dismissed any idea of a connection between his party and the "Tudeh" party, which also presents itself as a communist party.

"The 'Tudeh' is revisionist and we have few relations with it," he said. "We are a Marxist-Leninist party faithful to the thought of Mao." Mr. Azaryun said his party's acceptance of the Islamic republic did not signify a rupture between the communist and the people's Feda'i-ye--with which, he said, "we have contacts"--or the organization of revolutionaries, believed to be Maoist.

NIOC TO NEGOTIATE NEW CONTRACTS WITH WESTERN COMPANIES

TA281524 Paris AFP in English 1509 GMT 28 Feb 79 TA

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 28 (AFP)--The National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) intends to negotiate new contracts with Western companies on an "individual" basis, Hasan Nazih, the recently appointed NIOC managing director, said here today. Addressing company staff at NIOC's headquarters here, he reaffirmed that the international consortium led by British Petroleum, Shell, the French Compagnie Francaise des Petrole and American companies would be bypassed when Iran resumes its crude oil exports next Monday. The Consortium accounted for nine-tenths of Iran's oil operations before the Islamic revolution.

Mr Nazih, whose long speech was frequently interrupted by cheers and shouts of "Long live the revolution," made it clear that members of the Consortium would not be excluded from the negotiations on new contracts. He said that broad lines of Iran's new pricing, marketing and production policies would be unveiled next Monday.

A NIOC spokesman meanwhile said that Iran would let its export prices be determined by the market. He did not rule out prices in the range of 18 to 20 dollars per barrel. According to the spokesman, it would take no more than two weeks to bring production up to three million barrels a day (b/d). Pre-revolution output was up to six million b/d.

The spokesman was unable to give any details about the quantity and destination of the first load of crude that would leave Karg Island, Iran's biggest terminal on the gulf, nor about the vessels involved. "Nothing has been definitively decided yet," he said.

In oil industry quarters here, it was pointed out that existing stocks would effectively allow lifting of crude to resume on March 5. However, these sources said that resumed exports might be suspended fairly quickly unless production picked up at an adequate rate and unless the country's new oil policy was clearly defined.

TUDEH PARTY FIRST SECRETARY KIANURI INTERVIEW

AU281510 East Berlin HORIZONT in German No 9/1979 p 11 AU

[Excerpt from West Berlin DIE WAHRHEIT interview, published on 8 February, with Nureddin Kianuri, first secretary of the Iranian Tudeh Party]

[Text] Question: The strong and powerful movement of the Iranians masses, which after 25 years of oppression by the despotic shah regime and the notorious SAVAK secret service burst froth like an explosion and chased the shah out of the country, has puzzled even political observers who believed themselves to be familiar with the conditions in Iran. How does the Tudeh Party assess the strength of the Iranian workers class in this connection?

Kianuri: One needs to know the Iranian people to understand these events properly. Four times in this century the Iranian people have launched great democratic, anti-imperialist movements. All these revolutionary upheavals have left their marks in Iran. It is from these traditions that the people have retained their revolutionary discipline to this day.

In the past 25 years SAVAK attempted to suppress any opposition with tremendous cruelty. But over the years the indignation escalated to a point where it eventually was bound to act like dynamite, and it caused an explosion of unexpected proportions.

The imperialist system and the corrupt shah regime squeezed dozens of billions of dollars out of the people every year and transfered them abroad. On the other hand, the situation of the workers class and the peasants in the countryside did not tangibly improve, despite annual proceeds from oil exports of sometimes $20 billion--actually, in the past few years life in Iran deteriorated considerably in every respect owing to the economic crisis. All this led to such an explosive discontentment that the people could no longer be stopped by any means of pressure--there was an explosion.

The fact that the movement was organized was due to the traditional revolutionary strength of the people of Iran. Its impact is an expression of the compressed discontentment that had built up under the pressure of 24 years of SAVAK rule. These two elements provide the answer to the puzzle of the movement.

There is, moreover, the following objective explanation for the distinctly Islamic form of this movement: In the past 25 years of the shah's dictatorship, only the religious leaders had the opportunity to establish contact openly with the people. [paragraph continues]

The mosques were the only permitted meeting places. The government could not afford, and did not dare, to take action against the mosques. Therefore, they became the meeting place of the people, the place where the progressive and militant ideas of shi'ism were disseminated. The leftist forces did not have this opportunity. They were brutally oppressed.

But in the final phase of the movement last year the Iranian workers class set its stamp upon the whole movement. When mass demonstrations in the streets could no longer be effectively used after the proclamation of martial law, the workers class resorted to the exceedingly effective means of political strikes. Thus the entire movement was raised both qualitatively and quantitatively onto a new level.

As far as our country's workers class is concerned, it must be said that it is closely linked with the traditions of the Tudeh Party's struggles in the 1940's and 1950's. The party is now beginning to revive again all over the country, especially in the ranks of the workers class and the intelligentsia.

USSR REPORTEDLY USING PLO FOR COMMUNICATION WITH KHOMEYNI

LD011113 London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 1 Mar 79 p 8 LD

[Communist affairs correspondent report: "Russians Using PLO as Khomeyni Link"]

[Text] Russia has decided to make Yasir 'Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organisation its main channel of communication with the Ayatollah Khomeyni and his movement in Iran.

One of 'Arafat's closest aides, Abu Mazin, has been entrusted to negotiate with Khomeyni. He has close contacts with Ebrahim Yazdi, an important figure in Khomeyni's entourage.

The Russians were forced to seek an alternative means of exerting their influence in Iran because Khomeyni disapproves of the Tudeh (communist) Party. But he thinks highly of the PLO because of the assistance it gave his men in weapons and training.

The "deal" between the Russians and the PLO was that, if Abu Mazan could persude Khomeyni to accept the Soviet Union as his main ally, the Russians would in return increase substantially their financial and military aid to the PLO. At the same time 'Arafat hopes to increase his own waning prestige and obtain a new base in Iran for his terrorists' operations elsewhere. For Khomeyni the arrangement involves the risk that the PLO will become a weapon in the hands of the Russians if they decide one day that the time is ripe for promoting a leftist coup in Iran.

At the same time the Russians are not neglecting their contacts with the Tudeh Party.

Early this year Boris Ponomarev, head of the International Department of the Soviet Communist Party, sent his representative to Iraq to arrange contacts between the Iraqi and Iranian communist parties and the Palestinian organisations.

While the Russians have welcomed the overthrow of the monarchy in Iran they are less enthusiastic about the creation of an Islamic republic in an area bordering on the Caucasian Central Asian republics of the Soviet Union.

There are some 50 million Muslims in the Soviet Union who have long been unable to practice their religion freely. Recent reports from Azerbaijan and Armenia tell of greatly increased security in the area.

NVOI PRAISES REVOLUTIONARY PEASANTS, WARNS AGAINST U.S.

TA271833 [Editorial Report] The Clandestine National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran at 1730 GMT on 25 February comments on the overthrow of the shah's regime, American influence in Iran and the important revolutionary role played by the peasants.

The radio asserts that "the corrupt monarchy was overthrown by the brave people of Iran, and its corrupt system was shattered by the backbreaking attacks of the Iranian people's revolution. Continuing, the radio discusses the efforts of the Islamic government to restore order and to establish rules and regulations in the military and the government in general. "The people want a government by the people for the people," the radio adds.

Listeners are warned against the Americans and "their puppets who are waiting for an opportune moment to carry out devastating American imperialist plans against Iran. The terrible consequences of these plans have been seen in other countries throughout the world," the radio says. Listeners are also alerted to beware of those who "up to the last moment backed the shah and now profess to be friends of the revolution. We should trust only those who are true to the flag, the national revolution and democracy," the radio asserts, continuing: "The Iranian people's revolution is still continuing. At the present stage of our beloved revolutionary movement all people are participating."

"The dreams of the peasants to rise up from backwardness and gain freedom and prosperity are being fulfilled. After centuries of backwardness and oppression, they are able to participate in the shaping of their own society. Therefore, we can say with certainty that the future of the peasants is one of freedom and peace.

"Because of the democratic, national and Islamic revolution, this same future awaits all struggling people. The peasants have realized that only through a true revolution; that is, a revolution in which all the people have participated, including the peasants, can their dreams be fulfilled. The struggle of the peasants continued and did not cease until the dictatorship was overthrown and the foundations of the regime in the villages were toppled. Our dear peasants were active in all phases of the democratic, national revolution. They worked side by side with other national progressive forces to change the situation for all the people of Iran. The peasants' struggle against the oppression of their rulers, landowners and the gendarmes never ceased. These struggles witnessed many sacrifices. The numerous and widespread struggles of the peasants were one of the primary sources of the struggle of the people of Iran. Fortunately, they were able to pave the way for the establishment of a national, democratic and Islamic government at an opportune moment.

"The peasants have not only welcomed the revolution, but by their activies are considered one of the important forces of the revolution. The foundation of the revolution was formed through the unity of the workers and the peasants. At present, it is evident that the activities of the peasants in the villages have been responsible for the establishment of the foundation of the revolution. The numerous but centralized struggles of the peasants in the villages were the backbone of the revolutionary activities in the cities, which benefited the peasants. Among these activities were the formation of revolutionary councils and assemblies in every village."

The radio goes on to emphasize the importance of these revolutionary councils and assemblies, and stresses their revolutionary impact and importance to all "hard working peasants."

AFGHANISTAN

USSR'S ARKHIPOV ARRIVES ON FRIENDLY VISIT

BK281451 Kabul in Urdu to South Asia 1300 GMT 28 Feb 79 BK

[Text] His Excellency Ivan Vasilyevich Arkhipov, vice chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, arrived in Kabul yesterday heading a Soviet delegation on a friendly visit to Afghanistan at the invitation of Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Hafizollah Amin.

Hafizollah Amin welcomed the distinguished guest at the Kabul International Airport. [passage indistinct].

Meeting With Taraki

BK281452 Kabul in English to South Asia 1400 GMT 28 Feb 79 BK

[Text] Our beloved and revolutionary leader Nur Mohammad Taraki, chairman of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister of Afghanistan, received at the House of People this morning His Excellency Ivan Vasilyevich Arkhipov, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR. Hafizollah Amin, the deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, as well as Aleksandr Mikhaylovich Puzanov, the Soviet ambassador, were also present on this occasion.

INDIA

U.S. DELEGATION DISCUSSES URANIUM SUPPLY, S.E. ASIA

BK281629 Delhi ISI in English 1453 GMT 28 Feb 79 BK

[Text] Indo-U.S. bilateral consultations began in New Delhi on 28 February, reports PTI. The U.S. side is led by Warren Christopher, deputy secretary of state, and the Indian side by Foreign Secretary Jagat Mehta.

Consultations on Wednesday were in three stages. In the first stage, besides Foreign Secretary Jagat Mehta, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister V. Shankar and Secretaries in the Ministry of External Affairs M.A. Vellodi and U.S. Bajapai took part. In the second stage only Jagat Mehta and U.S. Bajpai were present on the Indian side. The third stage was a working lunch hosted by Jagat Mehta in honour of Christopher. Besides Mehta and Bajpai, Vellodi also attended the lunch.

Bilateral questions, including the supply of uranium, were taken up during the first stage of the discussions which lasted about 90 minutes. India had already conveyed its concern to the United States over the delay in the processing of the orders for supply of uranium. India's stand has been that under the agreement the United States is committed to supply uranium to Tarapur and that country should honour its commitment.

On the situation in Southeast Asia, the two sides had an exchange of each other's assessments of the situation. They also exchanged assessments of the possibility of escalation of the conflict if restraint is not exercised.